

{INVITATIONS}

DENY.

From Blame to Faith

Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; John 9:1-41; Ephesians 5:8-14

GETTING STARTED

When was the last time you blamed someone for something that had a negative impact on YOU. Where you justified in your blame?

READ and REFLECT

Read John 9:1-41 (consider breaking up the passage into its three parts and share the reading).

How would you summarize in one or two sentences the big idea for each of the three sections of this passage (vs. 1-12, 13-34, and 35-41)

Do you find the question odd in vs. 2 by the disciples? Have you subscribed to this question when bad things have happened to you or someone else? Why or why not?

Note: In the world of the first disciples, under the religious teachings of the time, wherever hurt, injury, disability – or anything bad that can happen to a person occurs – somebody is to blame. And the blame falls squarely on finding out who sinned causing this bad result.

Why were the Pharisees investigating the miracle...and unimpressed by the whole situation?

Why is the blind (now seeing) man's response so impressive (vs. 25).

Look at the characters (people and groups) in this story. Who do you identify with? Why?

ENGAGE and DISCUSS

The Gospel of John often writes with layered symbolic language. In this story, we have the story of a blind man and a theme of blindness (physical and spiritual in both the blind man and the Pharisee). How would you describe the spiritual journey of the blind man and the Pharisees in this story? What are the similarities and the differences?

Why are we so prone to assign blame to others or God for our troubles we encounter?

How have you reacted when you have been blamed (or perhaps when you have blamed yourself) for a particular problem or difficult circumstance?

Have one person read Psalm 23. Where do you find hope and encouragement in this Psalm?

How would you explain the difference(s) between the blind man and Psalm 23 compared to the Pharisees in vs. 39-41?

What are you taking away from this study?

NEXT STEPS

- Share at least one insight you have learned or that God has impressed upon your heart this week with at least one other person.
- Check out the stories being posted each day in the Christ Church Lenten Devotional found at www.cc-ob.org .