

4th SUNDAY OF LENT Cycle A

John 9:1-41 The healing of the blind man

Jesus heals the man born blind

	Purpose of this session
Profession of faith – mystery of God	Jesus helps us to “see” God Jesus is the Messiah
Scripture	John 9:1-41 The healing of the blind man
Christian living/morality	Treating people with disabilities with respect and compassion.
Prayer/worship	

GATHER

Welcome and opening prayer as usual.

PROCLAIM

We Blindfold every one and ask each person to write the following on a piece of paper:

“Jesus heals the man who was born blind”

Let us share your attempts and re-iterate how much we depend on our eyes to do things!

Read the gospel. John 9:1-41 The healing of the blind man

This is another very long gospel so perhaps we can read it in parts.

We will need people to take the part of: *the blind man, Jesus, disciples, blind man’s parents, Pharisees, etc)*

BREAK

Share what you feel about this story.

Some points for discussion:

- People in the time of Jesus thought that ***being sick or disabled was a punishment from God?***
Do we still think that? What did Jesus say? **Why are some people born with disabilities – is it their fault? How should we treat these people?** (A. Sometimes we just don’t know? *so the glory of god can be seen like courage of them – and the people who care for them*)
- I wonder why???? What do you think about the Pharisees being so upset about Jesus healing someone on the Sabbath? **Do you think God would consider helping someone on the Sabbath as work** and therefore as breaking the commandment to keep the Sabbath holy? *Do we sometimes get upset/jealous when something good happens to someone else?*
- **Who was really “blind” in the story?** Blind man who could not see – and the Pharisees who could not really see.. ***In what ways are we sometimes blind?*** (A. we have stereotypes of people so we judge them; we don’t like to change and do things differently; we are scared to try new things; we don’t see miracles because ***we are cynical; we don’t see the good things because we focus so much on the negative things***)
- **What did Jesus “prove” by this miracle** (that he was the Messiah) he is the light that brings sight to the blind. (And the journey of the man his physical and spiritual blindness & Pharisees are still blind.

SEND

Sit quietly and think about the ways in which we are spiritually blind.

In the quiet of your hearts to ask Jesus to heal your blindness and help us see.

Allow a few minutes for quiet reflection.

End with a spontaneous prayer of thanks for the term that is now ending and for a safe and happy holiday.