

WHY I FOLLOW JESUS



Because He Opened My Eyes

Connect

Have you ever experienced something so surprising you had to convince someone else that it actually happened?

Review

Take a couple of minutes to review the main ideas from the sermon:

1. **The Disciples Have a Question.** The disciples see a man born blind and immediately ask who is responsible for his suffering. Jesus refuses to reduce suffering to a simple formula and instead redirects their attention from “Who caused this?” to “How might God’s glory be displayed through this?”
2. **The Neighbors Have Questions.** After Jesus heals the man, the people around him are so struck by the change that they question whether he is even the same person. The man doesn’t have all the answers, but he honestly tells them what he knows: Jesus changed his life.
3. **The Pharisees Have Questions.** The Pharisees repeatedly question the man, but they aren't really looking for answers — they have already decided what they believe about Jesus. In contrast, the man is willing to follow the evidence of his own experience, even when he cannot explain everything about Jesus.
4. **There are always questions, but at some point you have to decide.** Everyone in the story has questions, but eventually each person lands somewhere: the man follows Jesus, the parents hedge, and the Pharisees reject him. It’s possible to continue pursuing Jesus even if we don’t have all the answers to our questions.

Read John 9:1-34

Make Observations: After reading John 9:1-34 out loud, give your group a few minutes to make observations on their own. Then go around the group and share what you observed and discuss them.

Discuss

1. The sermon opened by acknowledging that we all have questions about God. If you're comfortable sharing, what's a question you have about faith that you're currently wrestling with or have wrestled with in the past? How have those questions shaped your own relationship with God?
2. Pastor Eric identified five different reasons why we might experience suffering (suffering as a test, for improvement, as punishment, that displays God's glory, and for following Jesus). How might these reasons change the way we think about suffering in our own lives or the lives of others?
3. The blind man didn't have all the answers to the questions the people asked him about Jesus. How comfortable are you saying "I don't know" when someone asks you a question about your faith? Why can it be difficult for us to admit that we don't have the answer when it comes to God, the Bible, or our faith?
4. The man could not answer every theological question the Pharisees asked, but he could say, "I was blind, but now I see." What is something you can honestly say Jesus has done in your own life?
5. The parents of the blind man hedge on their answer to the Pharisees because they are afraid of what might happen to them. Where in your life (i.e., at work, school, a relationship, etc.) are you tempted to choose safety over honesty when it comes to talking about Jesus? What would it look like to be more courageous and honest in those areas?
6. The man born blind chose to follow Jesus because his eyes were opened, even though he didn't have all the answers. What are your reasons for choosing to follow Jesus despite some of the questions you might have? What does your answer reveal about why you trust Jesus?

Apply

Break up into smaller groups of three, and respond to this question: What is one specific step you want to take this week to apply the sermon to your life?

Pray

In your groups of three, have each person spend some time thanking God for one or two specific things he has done in your life. Then, have one person close by reading Psalm 100 out loud.