

## LESSON PLAN

### THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12 – 9:41

**Lesson Memory Verse:** John 8:12 - “Then Jesus spoke again to them saying, **I am the light of the world; he that follows me** shall not walk in darkness, but **shall have the light of life.**” (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold.**)

**Lesson Aim:** To be sure all students have received Jesus as Savior so they have His light of life.

**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE -- BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

**KEY (for Attention):** Do you know someone who is color-blind? They can see almost everything that you and I can see, except certain colors. They usually can see some colors, but not all the colors. Some colors look the same as other colors to them. Sometimes red and green look the same as brown. When that happens they cannot see the difference between the red and green lights in stop and go lights.

However, to be color-blind is not nearly as bad as being totally blind so that you cannot see anything with your eyes. It would be very hard to live without your eyes, even though many people have to do it. But there is something worse than being blind in your eyes and that is being blind in our hearts. When a person is blind in his heart, he is not able to see (understand) the things as God sees them. As a result he may mock God or get mad at God because he does not understand the things that God has told him/her in the Bible.

What kind of things does God want him to see (understand) in the Bible? Many things, but here are the first things He wants him to see: (1) He wants him to see that he has sinned and, as a result he is lost, and is on his way to Hell; (2) He wants him to see that Jesus is the only one who died for his sins and then rose again from the dead, so He is the only person who can save him from going to Hell; (3) He wants him to make a definite decision to turn from his sins and to receive Jesus, the light of life.

**HE (for Authority):** Our Bible memory verse tells us that Jesus is the light of the world and wants us to have the light of life. (Have the verse printed on a sheet of paper and hold it up so they can see it. Read it or have one of the children read it and then explain the verse by pointing to the words that you are explaining.) Light makes it possible for us to see things with our eyes. There also is a light that makes it possible for us to see things with our minds. That light shows us how to solve problems. There also is a light that makes it possible to see things with our hearts or souls. That light helps us understand what Jesus says about eternal life; it is the light of life. Now let me explain the words that Jesus said in this verse. I am the light of the world. He gives spiritual light to the world. Some receive, but many do not. We need this light to understand the Bible and how to be saved from our sins. We receive this light when we follow Him by receiving Him as our Savior. When He saves us, we will no longer walk in darkness, because now we understand what He is saying about our spiritual life. This light will show us that we have eternal life, which is the light of life. If you have not received Jesus as your Savior, you should do it right now! When you do, you will no longer be blind in your heart, but you will begin to see things as God sees them.

**SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.** In today’s Bible story we will learn about a man that received light for his eyes, for his mind and for his heart/soul. Listen carefully and learn how this happened all in one day.

#### I. The Blind Man Sees with His Eyes - John 9:1-7

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### A. The man was born blind – 9:1-4

He had not sinned, nor had his parents sinned, but he was born blind so that Jesus could do the works of His Father by giving light to this man through an amazing miracle.

**WE:** We need to realize that God has a good plan for each of our lives, which will bring glory and praise to Him. So we will have peace in our hearts when we accept His plan for our lives.

### B. The man was able to see – 9:5-7

Jesus is the light of the world. He made the sun to give light to the world and He gave us eyes to see what He made. Only Jesus can make a man's eyes see light when he is born blind. This is what Jesus did for the man in this Bible story. As strange as it sounds, Jesus put clay on the man's eyes and then He told him to wash his eyes in the pool of Siloam. This man did what Jesus told him to do and he was able to see light for the first time in his life.

**WE:** When we obey what God tells us to do, even though it may seem strange to us, it will be a great blessing for us. Only those who obey God can receive His blessings (Naaman - 2 Kgs 5).

## II. The Blind Man Sees with His Mind - John 9:8-34

### A. The neighbors examine the "blind man" – 9:8-14

The neighbors were confused and were not sure if this man was their neighbor who had been born blind or someone like him. He said that he was their neighbor. They asked him how his eyes were opened. He told them exactly how Jesus did it. This shows the neighbors' minds were blinded, but the healed man's mind was seeing things clearly. The neighbors decided to bring him to the Pharisees to examine him. Since Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath day, this was a serious religious infraction to the Pharisees. Their hearts were blinded by their incorrect interpretation of the Law of Moses.

**WE:** We will be able to see clearly with our minds what God is doing in our lives when we let the words of Christ saturate our minds (Col 3:16). But when we try to explain it to others, they may not see it the way we see it, because they have not let the light of the Bible into their minds.

### B. The Pharisees examine the "blind man" – 9:15-17

When the Pharisees learned that Jesus gave sight to the man that was born blind, they were divided in their thinking. Some said that Jesus could not be of God since He healed the man on the Sabbath. Others asked how a sinner could do such a mighty miracle. The minds of the first group were completely darkened by their sin against Jesus. The other group had some light enter their minds when they asked how a sinner could give sight to a man born blind. So they asked the man what he thought about Jesus. He said Jesus was a prophet. His answer showed that he had received some light in his mind, but he needed more light to see Jesus was God.

**WE:** We will receive light for our minds in stages. As we receive the light that God gives to us in the Bible, He will give us more light from the Bible. If we hesitate in receiving the light, the light will stop coming until we are ready to receive what He has already given us.

### C. The Pharisees examine the parents of the "blind man" – 9:18-23

The Pharisees now wanted to prove the man had not been born blind, so they called for his parents to come and answer their questions. The parents told them that he was their son and that he had been born blind, but they said that they did not know how he had been made to see. The parents were afraid to say that Jesus had healed their son because the Jewish leaders had threatened to put out of the synagogue anyone that confessed that Jesus was the Messiah. Fear of the Jewish leaders blinded their minds from knowing the truth.

**WE:** Fear is a trap (Prov 29:25). We must watch out for it lest it cause us to be blind.

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### D. The Pharisees re-examine the “blind man” – 9:24-34

The minds of the Pharisees were so darkened by their hostility toward Jesus that the light of this great miracle had no effect; this kept the light from reaching their hearts. So they demanded that the man change his story about Jesus healing him (9:24). When that did not work they ridiculed him and tried to make him look stupid (9:28-29). That also failed, so they cast him out of the synagogue (9:34). However, this questioning caused the light of Christ to shine all the more brightly in this man’s mind as we can see by his answers to the Pharisees (9:25, 27, 30-33).

### III. The Blind Man Sees with His Heart - John 9:35-41

#### A. Jesus finds the “blind man” – 9:35-38

When Jesus heard that the Pharisees had cast the healed man out of the synagogue, He found him and asked, “Do you believe on the Son of God?” He did not know who He was, but he wanted to know Him (9:36). He was ready to receive the light of life. When Jesus told him that He was the Son of God, he believed immediately and worshipped Jesus. He saw with his heart that Jesus was God, received Him as his Savior and was given eternal life.

**WE:** When we truly receive Jesus as the Son of God, we will worship Him. He is our God who has saved us from the darkness of sin and has given us the light of life forever. Have you received Jesus as your God and Savior?

#### B. Jesus teaches the Pharisees – 9:39-41

Jesus said that He came into the world so that those who admit that they do not see, might see, and those who claim to see, might not see. Jesus had just given light to a man that had lived in darkness with his eyes, mind and heart. At the end of the day he could see that Jesus was the Son of God, so he received Him and was given eternal life. On the other hand, the Pharisees thought they could see, but they were blind in their minds and hearts, so they refused to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus had given them light through this miracle to show He was the Son of God, but they rejected the light and remained in darkness.

The Pharisees asked Jesus, “Are we blind also?” They expected Jesus to say, “No.” They were confident that they were not blind; they were able to see the truth. But Jesus’ answer did not give them the answer they wanted. His answer gave hope to those who admitted they were spiritually blind, but it removed hope from those who claimed they could see. Jesus is the light of the world. Those who admit they are blind, but receive Him are given the light of life. Those who claim they can see, but reject Him, will not be given the light of life; they will remain in the darkness of sin and be sent to Hell.

**WE:** We need to have our hearts healed of blindness. That will happen when we believe Jesus is the Son of God and receive Him as our Savior from sin. Then He will give us the light of life.

**BE (for Action):** Ask the children if they can tell you how the blind man was made to see with his eyes . . . then with his mind . . . and finally with his heart. Tell them the most important healing is to be able to see with our heart that Jesus is the Son of God, the Light of the world. He gives those people the light of life. Ask how many of them believe Jesus is the Son of God with their minds. Then ask how many of them believe Jesus is the Son of God with their hearts, so that they worship Him and praise Him for their salvation. If they have not received Jesus as the Son of God and as their Savior, encourage them to do it now. This is serious business.