

LEARNER GUIDE

John 9:1-41

The Jewish leaders revealed that it was not that they were _____ to believe; it was that they were _____.

Seeing Jesus for who He is means recognizing Him not only as King of the world, but also as _____. Truly seeing Jesus is an act of _____.

John 10:1-18

*4 key factors that significantly increase a person's susceptibility to "be stolen":

- _____ - Thieves feed off the struggle to meet ones basic needs by offering false opportunities to improve their circumstances.
- _____ - Those living in unstable environments (family conflicts/government conflicts) are fearful of what each day will bring. Thieves pretend to provide a stable support network.
- _____ - Thieves may supply what feeds a person's addiction to keep them trapped.
- _____ - Thieves use people's public struggles by using personal information to gain trust and pretend to be a friend.

**Taken from "The People Who Are Targeted by Human Traffickers," an October 2021 study by Love Justice International.*

Jesus is the Door that brings _____, but the Pharisees/false teachers are thieves that bring _____

Not only is Jesus the Door through whom we can enter in, be saved, and find life, but He is also the _____, who laid down His life to kill the wolf of sin and death once and for all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it look like to not only recognize Jesus as King of the world, but to also surrender to Jesus as King of your life?
2. When Jesus said in John 9:3 that the man was blind “in order that the works of God might be displayed in him,” do you think Jesus was saying God deliberately caused the child to be blind? Why or why not?
3. What were some of the lies or tactics that the Pharisee used in Jesus’ time to try to keep people’s hearts away from Jesus? What are some lies or tactics that false teachers use today?
4. In what specific ways does Jesus operate as the Door in the life of a believer?
5. John 10:10 tells us that Jesus has come to bring us *abundant life*. In what ways is your life abundant?

PERSONAL STUDY

Part One

Read John 9:1-41

In John 9:41, Jesus said to the Pharisees, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.” What did Jesus mean when He said this? **Read Proverbs 26:12** first to inform your answer.

2 Corinthians 4:4 says, “The god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” Who does Satan, the god of this age, blind to keep from seeing the gospel?

Satan is only able to blind the minds of the unbelieving. Refusal to believe is the reason blindness happens to men. Let’s explore that truth a little more.

What part of an unbeliever’s body does he blind?

Go to BlueLetterBible.org and type 2 Corinthians 4:4 in the search bar. Click on the blue *Tools* box to the left of the verse. Scroll down the Interlinear tab until you locate *minds*. Click on the Strong’s Number *G3540* next to the word. Scroll down to *Concordance Results*. In how many verses does this word appear?

The Greek word for mind, *noema*, used in 2 Corinthians 4:4 occurs only five other times in the New Testament. All but one of those times, the word is used in 2 Corinthians as Paul warns the Corinthian church of the strategies of Satan. But look at the final time it is used in the Bible. **Read Philippians 4:7**. What does this verse tell us is the reason that Satan can only blind the minds of the unbelieving?

Close in prayer - Look up the Greek word for *peace* (G1515) in Phil 4:7, meditate on the Outline of Biblical Usage for the word, & thank God for guarding believers’ minds with that kind of peace.

Part Two

Read John 10:1-21

In John 10:7, Jesus said, “I am the Door of the sheep.” Let’s look at some other times that doors are mentioned in the Bible.

- **Read Genesis 6:14-16**, the first time a door is mentioned. The ark was about 510 feet long, which would take up nearly one and a half football fields! How many doors did it have?
- **Read Exodus 12:7-13**. What important role does the door play in this passage?
- **Read 1 Kings 6:31-35**. God instructed King Solomon to build these two doors at the entrance to the Holy of Holies, the place of God’s Holy presence in the temple. **Read Hebrews 9:6-7**. Who was allowed through the doors to the inner sanctuary? How often and for what purpose could they come?

Think about each of these doors. In what ways do they point to Jesus as the Door?

The doors in the Old Testament point us to the Gospel. The temple door showed us that man is sinful and separated from God so he needs his sins blotted out. But because the punishment for sin is death, only a sacrificial death can remove sin. The Passover door pointed to the blood of a spotless lamb needed to remove our sins. And like the Ark door symbolized man’s means of safety from death in the Flood, Jesus Christ, the Door, is the only means of eternal salvation from sin.

Let’s close our time by reading about one more door in **Matthew 28:1-6**. When Jesus died and was resurrected, the angel rolled away the stone that acted as the door to His grave, showing that Christ had power over death and was exactly who He claimed to be - the Son of God. In this way the resurrection guarantees the hope of eternal life to all who place their faith in Jesus.

Close in prayer, thanking God for His love and mercy, which are highlighted by doors in the Bible.

Part Three

Read John 10:22-42

Our passage begins today during the Feast of Dedication. This indicates about two months had passed since the confrontation we read about yesterday in John 10:1-21. But it's clear the encounter was still fresh on the minds of the Jewish religious leaders. When they confronted Jesus on this day, it's easy to see that He remained faithful to His message. But let's look at something Jesus told them that may seem a little bit confusing. Revisit what Jesus says in **John 10:34-36**.

Jesus' statement, "I said, 'You are gods'" is a reference to Psalm 82:6. **Read Psalm 82**. In Old Testament times, judges were called little "g" *gods* because in their office they determined the fate of other men. In many ways, Pharisees acted as Old Testament judges because they often settled Scriptural and personal matters among God's people. As a result, it's likely that they also saw themselves in the category of 'gods' described in Psalm 82.

Understanding this context, what do you think Jesus was saying to the Pharisees in verses 34-36?

The Pharisees seem to have NO problem giving the title *gods* to the office of an unjust human judge, including themselves. But they refuse to believe Jesus could be the Son of God, despite the fact that He has repeatedly fulfilled prophecies of the Messiah in their presence. They sought to seize Him and charge Him with blasphemy. But it wasn't God's time so Jesus eluded their presence and left Jerusalem. Look again at **John 10:40**. To where did Jesus go?

The area beyond the Jordan was known as Perea. It was an area where the religious leaders in Jerusalem had no authority because it was the exclusive domain of Herod Antipas. New Testament scholar Leon Morris wrote, "In a place where one might have thought He would be welcomed, men tried to stone Him. Now in despised Perea, men believed on Him." Why do you think Perea yielded converts when Jerusalem seemed to only yield persecutors?

In what ways is where you live like Perea? In what ways is it like Jerusalem?

Close in prayer, asking God to open the eyes and ears of people in our community to the Gospel.

Heart-to-Heart

Spend some time with Jesus using one of the suggestions below. Remember to reference the RESOURCES pages to help you.

- Revisit a verse or passage that stuck out to you this week. Compare the text in a few different Bible translations or do a word study on a few key words.
- Read a commentary on John 9 or 10.
- Journal about what you learned through His Word this week.
- Spend time in prayer, focusing on what the Holy Spirit revealed to you through your study of John 9 and 10.
- Record any questions you still have about the text.

Looking Ahead

Read John 11-12.

Use the space below to record anything that jumps out to you or any questions that come to mind about the text.
