#### Lesson 2:

#### Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

John 9

MEMORY WORK:

John 3:16

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

To believe in Jesus means that I know He is God’s Son and that He is my Savior. But believing is not enough. I must do what He tells me to do in His Word.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

What did Jesus do for the man who could not walk in Lesson 1? Remember the reason Jesus performed miracles?

Do you know what it means if someone is blind? Being blind means not being able to see anything. Close your eyes and imagine what it would be like if you couldn’t see. Aren’t you thankful God gave you eyes to see His beautiful world? Today, we are going to learn what Jesus did for a man who could not see

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Like other disabled people in New Testament times, most blind people made their meager living by begging because they could not work. As people went in and out of the Temple, those who had some kind of physical problem (like blindness) would sit outside the Temple and ask for money.
2. In John 8, Jesus had a long discussion with some Jews near the Temple. Jesus’ words made the Jews very angry, and they picked up stones to kill Jesus. But He “hid Himself, and went out of the Temple” (John 8:59).
3. As the 12 apostles and Jesus were leaving the Temple area, He saw a blind man. The apostles immediately jumped to the conclusion that the man was suffering because of some great sin that he or his parents had done. Jesus quickly told them that the man’s blindness was not because of anything someone had done; it was just the way the man was born. This was another opportunity for Jesus to show His power as the Son of God.
4. Jesus reminded the apostles that He was “the light of the world.” Then, making a paste of saliva and dirt, He put the “clay” on the blind man’s eyes and told him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man did as Jesus told him and returned to Jesus completely healed! For the first time in his life, the poor man could see flowers and trees and the faces of people all around him. Neither the water nor the clay healed the man. Jesus healed him because of his willingness to obey.

**NOTE:** In Bible times, it was commonly believed that disabilities or severe illnesses were the result of sin. Though suffering is often the result of sin (bad choices), much suffering is not, as is clearly taught in Scripture (Ezekiel 18:20). Recall, for example, that Job’s friends, just like the apostles in this story, had made the assumption that Job’s disease was due to his sins, and were insistent about it (e.g., Job 4:7-8; 5:6; 8:6,13,20; 11:6,14,20; 15:5,16,20,26; 18:5-21; 20:19; 22:5-9). They, of course, were wrong. Quite the opposite was true.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[**The Miracles of**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=10&amp;article=556)[**Jesus**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=10&amp;article=556)” by Kyle Butt and “[**The Very Works that I do Bear Witness of Me**](http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=10&amp;article=1772)” by Eric Lyons and Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for discussions about the purpose of Jesus’ miracles.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** This is the only recorded example of Jesus healing someone born blind. It was a common problem in Bible times, just as it is in poorer countries today.

Many Jews thought the water of the Pool of Siloam was full of magical water that could heal diseases, and they believed its water was especially powerful during the Feast of Tabernacles. On the first seven days of the Feast, priests would go in a processional from the Pool of Siloam to the Temple to get some water from the pool to pour out at the base of the altar. Many people who came to the Feast even filled small bottles with the water as souvenirs/keepsakes of the supposedly special water.

In John 9:12-31, the key word is “know.” Pay attention to the repeated statements of what the people in the story know and do not know, i.e., what facts they understand, or think they understand.

This miracle was another instance of Jesus being criticized by the Pharisees because He performed miracles on the Sabbath. (In Lesson 1, Jesus healed the man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath.) The Jews (mainly scribes) had developed a list of 39 types of work they said Jews could not do on the Sabbath. One of those was kneading dough; because Jesus “kneaded” spittle and dirt to make clay, He had broken one of their rules.

1. When people who had known him before as a blind beggar saw that the man was no longer blind, they took him to the Pharisees who asked him how he had regained his sight. They did not like his answers and questioned his parents. The parents, who should have been rejoicing and praising Jesus, refused to stand up for their son. When the Pharisees asked the parents how long their son had been blind, the parents said he was able to answer for himself. (After age 13, a Jewish boy was considered responsible for keeping the Law of Moses and was considered an adult in many aspects.) The parents were afraid because the Jewish leaders threatened to throw anyone out of the Temple (essentially excommunicate them) if they chose to follow Jesus.
2. The Pharisees questioned the once-blind man again but, even before he knew Jesus was the Son of God, he argued with them about Jesus and what a great Man He was. The man who had been blind his entire life knew enough of the Old Law to show that the Pharisees’ arguments did not make sense. Insulted and angry, the Pharisees followed through with their threats and “put him out,” i.e., refused to allow the man into the Temple or to participate in any Jewish rituals.
3. The once-blind man was healed both physically and spiritually, but the Pharisees were unwilling to “see” Jesus for who He was—the Son of God. Therefore, they were blind. They did not want to believe in Him (Matthew 23:31). Today we “see” Jesus in the pages of God’s Word. We can choose to “see” Him and **not** believe (like the Pharisees), or we can choose to believe and obey Him as the blind man did.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONA VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces. This is lesson 136 in the Betty Lukens manual.

* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. The file will be labeled “02”. A Hard copy of these images in the visual aid folder since there are no Abeka flash-a-cards for this lesson.
* Blindfolds or darkened glasses

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

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### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Sense of Touch Game – Fill a bag with a variety of items. Using only the sense of touch, guess what each item is. This would be a good introductory activity when you are explaining what it means to be blind
* Glasses for the blind: At a discount or party supply store, buy a pair of sunglasses for each child in your class. Paint the lenses black or cover them with black construction. As you retell the story, let the children wear the glasses. When Jesus heals the man, they can take off their glasses and see! Talk about what it would be like to be blind for your whole life and then instantly be able to see.
* Role play: Pretend that you are Jesus and one of the children is the blind man. Or let two of the children play the parts of Jesus and the blind man.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. Talk about the blessing of sight, the great design of our eyes, etc.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Review game: Make copies of an eye shape, at least one per child. Write review questions on the backs of the eyes, and cut them out. Hide the eyes around the room before class. Let each child take a turn finding an eye. Read the question and let him try to answer it before another child has a turn. Give each child a sticker or stamp on his hand when he answers the question correctly. (“[Eye Cutouts](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/3-35-28-141Eye%20Cutoutst.pdf)” provided in activity sheets)

### Review Questions

1. What did the Jews do when Jesus made them angry?
   1. They picked up stones to kill Him
2. When Jesus was leaving the Temple, whom did He see?
   1. A blind man begging for money
3. Why did the apostles think the man had been afflicted with blindness?
   1. Because of some great sin he or his parents had done
4. Why was the man actually blind?
   1. Because the world is cursed; there are diseases and sickness even at birth
5. What did Jesus make clay out of when He was healing the blind man?
   1. Dirt and spit
6. What did Jesus do with the clay?
   1. Smeared it on the man’s eyes
7. What did Jesus then tell the man to do?
   1. Go wash in the pool of Siloam
8. What happened when the man washed?
   1. He was able to see.
9. What lesson does this teach us today?
   1. That we should listen to and obey Jesus through His Word
10. What did the Jews do to the man because he believed Jesus was the Son of God?
    1. They kicked him out of the Temple.

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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