

JESUS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

LENT 2023 | DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

WEEK 4: SEEING LIKE JESUS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

These reflection guides are designed to supplement the videos, for use in a small group Bible study. They are created for the leader's ease of use, and with links to free web-based resources.

REFLECTION

Jesus sees things differently... he sees limitations, obstacles, family of origin issues... as the perfect pre-condition for the wonderful restorative impulse of God.

Seeing like Jesus means seeing your healing as a part of being sent.

What if you saw your time in school, your job, your service, even your family, as the place and people to whom you are being sent by God. Would that change your seeing?

~Bishop Wright

SCRIPTURE

Read John 9:1-41: the story of a man born with blindness, his healing, and his testimony.

Read 2 Corinthians 2:3-7: Experiencing God's comfort in our suffering can equip us to comfort others who are suffering as we have.

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13: Another example of how God sees differently.

DISCUSSION

- Share about a time when your perspective shifted about what God might be doing, particularly in times of suffering.
- When have you experienced healing (physical, emotional, spiritual, etc.) or transformation?
- How has the idea of "being sent" factored into your healing? Share about a time when your healing journey helped someone else.
- Think about the places and people to whom you are sent (work or school colleagues, family, neighbors, etc.). What does it look like to see people in those spaces differently, from Jesus' perspective? If you are seeing differently, how does your perspective and behavior shift?

ARTICLES

For Further Reading:

Seeing from another point of view: reflections on John 9 from those with disabilities:

<https://reflections.yale.edu/article/divine-access-disability-and-belonging/finding-healing-my-disability>

Additional reflections:

<https://sojo.net/articles/my-disabled-body-proclaims-gospel>

<https://blogs.elca.org/disabilityministries/reinterpreting-john-9/>

PRAYER

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget... Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy.... Amen

BCP 826

TAKE-AWAY

Go somewhere in your community that is a center of activity, where people are gathering. Walk around or sit and observe with appreciation all that is happening, and look for the Spirit moving. Look at each person you encounter, seeing like Jesus, with compassion and love and appreciation. Say prayers for those around you.