

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind**Learning Goals:** Students should be able to articulate principles of sharing a testimony through the example of the blind who was healed by Jesus.**Question:** What do you think it would be like to have been born blind? (or Alternative Activity)

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Activity: “Two Truths and a Lie”

Have four volunteers sit up front. Each person should come up with two things they’ve actually done and one thing they haven’t. Go around and have each volunteer share his three things. After each person shares the group should vote on which story was the lie. Each person will earn points based on how many people believe the lie—award one point per person who votes that a true story is the lie, and five points per person who votes that the lie is a true story.

Follow Up Questions:

- Who was the most convincing liar?
- How did you know what was true?
- How can you tell if someone is telling you the truth or a lie?
- If someone told you Jesus healed him from an illness, would you believe him or think there was another explanation for what happened? Explain how you would know what to believe.

Read John 9:1-41**Who?**

- Jesus
- Disciples
- neighbors
- Pharisees
- Parents of the blind man

What?

- Jesus sees a man born blind on the side of the road
- Jesus heals the man by making mud, placing it on the man’s eyes, and sending him to wash in the pool of Siloam (meaning “sent” - theme of witness)
- He and his parents are questioned by the Pharisees
- The Pharisees kick him out
- He meets Jesus and puts his trust in the Christ

When?

- on the Sabbath day

Where?

- Along the roadside
- Pool of Siloam
- In the presence of the Pharisees

Why?

- To reveal the glory of God
- To lead the man to saving faith in Jesus

Significant features:

- Connection to John's "sevens"
 - One of Jesus' Seven Signs
 - There is a connection to the saying, "I am the Light of the World" (8:12) - the Light of the world is allowing light into this man's eyes. Light is a metaphor for sight, revelation, spiritual illumination, and Jesus himself.
 - The story takes place in seven "scenes"
- Why was the man born blind?
 - assumption that sin was the cause of the man's blindness
 - question of whether it was the sin of his parents (Exodus 20:5) or the man's sin before birth
 - To reveal God's glory.
- There is a connection to Jewish ritual
 - ritual cleansing - the pool of Siloam was used for ritual washing (like the jars in the water to wine);
 - Jesus heals on the Sabbath day, a day intended for rest
- The Pharisees want to define the man by his disability (the blind man)
- Lessons for us on sharing our testimony:
 - Tell what you know - you are the best expert on your experience
 - Don't be afraid to say "I don't know"
 - Don't try to get into a debate - "You may be right about that other stuff, I don't know. This is what I do know: I was blind and now I see."
- We see evidence of the man coming to faith and deeper understanding:
 - At first, he can only recite details of the incident, but does not interpret them. "I don't know who he is."
 - "He is a prophet"
 - "Obviously, we know that a man who can heal like this is from God."
 - "Lord, I believe" - he worships (true faith always leads to worship)

The Man's Testimony

Sarcasm - He gives the best testimony I think I've ever heard:

- He goes into this long discussion about how he was ostracized as a kid
- How the other kids picked on him and how he found acceptance with a gang
- How he started dealing drugs
- Then he met Jesus one day while serving time in the slammer and his life was completely turned around . . .

No. He didn't have a dramatic testimony.

"I went. I washed. I saw."

That's it.

"I went. I washed. I saw."

Why do we make it so complicated?

Lesson Summary/Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Pool of Siloam
- Ritual cleansing
- What is the connection to ritual cleansing in this story?
- What are some lessons that we can learn from the man born blind in giving our testimony?