

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

## GROUP GUIDE: WEEK 20

### CONVERSATION STARTER

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What is the silliest fight you've ever been caught up in, and how did you resolve it?

### THE GREAT IRONY OF JOHN'S GOSPEL

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John uses the images of light and darkness as well as sight and blindness throughout his story to talk about the reality of following Jesus. In chapter 9, that theme takes an ironic turn. Throughout the chapter, we see the faith of the man born blind grow—from his first interaction with Jesus and subsequent healing to the inquisition he faces with the religious leaders.

Of all the people in Jerusalem, it's the religious leaders who would tell you they can see clearly—they know the truth, they follow the Law, and they believe they are doing the right thing. Yet, at every turn, John reveals that it's actually the formerly blind man who can now see clearly because of his faith in Jesus, and it's the religious leaders who are living in darkness because they refuse to open their eyes to the truth of who Jesus is.

In other words, the man who *was blind* can now see clearly. The ones who think they can see clearly *are actually blind*. The irony is palpable. And the warning for us is clear. It's when we *think* we can see things clearly—when we're overconfident in our own abilities and knowledge or perspective—that we are at the greatest risk of blindness. The more we think we know, the more blind we could potentially be to the truth staring us in the face. This is why following Jesus requires humility. As disciples, we're called to take on the stance of one who is always learning, always growing, and always being molded more and more into the likeness of Christ. Instead of pointing to our own knowledge or abilities, we redirect the spotlight to Jesus, the true light and the one through whom we see clearly.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What stuck out to you about the reading from this week? Was there a verse or idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?

2. It's when we think we can see clearly that we're in the greatest danger of being blind to the truth. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever had the opportunity to share your faith with someone who may have been antagonistic toward Christians or Christianity as a whole? What was the experience like, and how did you respond?
4. All of us have a story to share about how Jesus opened our eyes and transformed our lives. As much as you feel comfortable, share your story with your group.

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

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In sharing his story, the blind man tells the religious leaders, "I was blind, now I see." How would you fill in the blanks: I was \_\_\_\_\_, and now I am \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes, sharing our testimony is just that simple; We point to the real, tangible difference our faith in Jesus has wrought in our life. This week, pray for God to give you a chance to share your story with someone who needs to hear it, whether it's someone you already know or someone you've yet to meet. Pay attention to how this experience makes you feel—were you nervous? Anxious? Was it difficult or awkward? Why do you think that's the case?