

A.C.T.S.

Our 'Core Values' at Gilcomston Church

We believe it's important that everyone is clear as to what we are about as a local fellowship: we've set this out as four basic 'parameters' defining our aspirations and priorities, and it's these which we will be working through in this series of studies drawn from John's gospel.

You can find the background to this short series [here](#).

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4. John 9.1-34 [w/b Sunday 27th January 2019]

“.., One thing I do know ..”

The last of the four ‘core values’ which shape our life as a local church is our commitment to sending our members out in the cause of the gospel.

This final study, therefore, centres around this theme, in the record here of a man born blind who, on being healed, finds himself sent back to ‘*declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*’ (1 Pet.2.9).

As such it provides a fitting introduction to, and bridge into, our next Sunday morning series on 1 Peter.

[It would be great if you can cover all the questions, but there may not be time in your Community Group! Try and ensure that in this study you at least cover questions 1, 4, and 7. And as always make sure you leave good time for shared prayer!]

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1. Read John 9.1-34. Read the whole passage through. It may be very familiar, but try and read it as though for the first time and through the eyes of a new believer.

Can you relate the experience of this man to your own experience when your eyes were opened to see Jesus?

What do you find exciting, and what challenging, as you read through this narrative?

2. **Read John 9.1-2.** The reality of suffering invariably raises questions in any thinking person: the sight of this blind man prompts questions in the minds of the disciples.

What perspective lies behind the question the disciples ask Jesus here?

Can you think of instances where this sort of perspective subtly slips into your own way of thinking?

3. **Read John 9.3-5.** Jesus' response indicates that the disciples have been asking the wrong sort of question: they haven't been seeing the situation through the right 'lens'.

What is the point Jesus is making in v.3?

Read **2 Cor.4.1-6:** Jesus will use this situation to highlight the reality of spiritual blindness - how do we share in the miracle of sight being given to the blind?

4. **Read John 9.6-7.** The details of the miracle performed by Jesus are recorded by John for us: the action of Jesus is matched by the instruction He gives to the blind man.

Why do you think Jesus restored this man's sight in this way (compare **Luke 18.42** and His restoring the sight of the blind beggar in Jericho)?

What is John drawing our attention to by highlighting the meaning of the pool's name?

5. Read John 9.8-12. The man returns home, able now to see: his presence immediately prompts questions on the part of his neighbours and those familiar with him.

In what ways do you think your life prompts people to ask questions?

The man doesn't know the answers to all their questions: what questions can he answer?

Do you find yourself reluctant to acknowledge that in answer to some of the questions put to you about the gospel you "don't know"?

6. Read John 9.13-23. The man is then brought by his neighbours to the Pharisees, and his parents soon find themselves confronted by some pointed interrogation.

What creates the problem for the Pharisees in determining how to react to the blind man's sight being restored?

Why were the man's parents reluctant to acknowledge any more than that he was indeed their son?

What are you afraid of when it comes to telling others who Jesus is and what He's done?

7. Read John 9.24-34. The man himself is given a further grilling by the Pharisees - but, despite his lack of learning, he is able to give as good as he gets!

How easy do you find it to move from sharing your own testimony to challenging those with whom you're speaking?

Why do you think the man seemed to grow in boldness the harder the Pharisees dug their heels in?

What lessons about sharing the good news of Jesus have you learned from seeing this man engaging with neighbours and religious leaders?