



Sermon Discussion Guide

December 8th, 2024

Use this discussion guide with your small group or by yourself, to dig into the text and theme of Sunday's message.

Key Point: God brings light into our hardships.

Life Sharing: (answer one)

1. Tell a story about a time you were covered in mud. Why did it happen and what did you do?
2. Tell a story about a time you were stuck in darkness. Why did it happen and what did you do?

Transition / Open in prayer

3. When has God brought good things out of something difficult in your life?

Life Examination:

READ John 9:1-14

4. What is the mistake the disciples make about suffering in verse 2?
5. What is the point of Jesus' words in verses 4 and 5 and how are they connected to this healing story?
6. Why do you think Jesus made mud instead of simply healing with his words as he did with other people?
7. What was problematic about this healing: for the neighbors / for the religious leaders?

READ 2 Corinthians 4:4-7, 16-18

8. In this passage what does light symbolize? What does darkness symbolize?
9. What are "jars of clay" and how do they illustrate our lives?
10. Why does Paul say we should not lose heart (vs. 16)?

Life Application:

11. What is the purpose of hardship and suffering for those who follow Jesus?
12. In what ways are light and dark helpful illustrations of suffering in life? In what ways are they not helpful?
13. Describe a time in your life when you struggled or suffered and ask God to bring light back into your life.
14. What are some ways that God renews us inwardly?
15. How would you encourage someone to keep their "eyes fixed on what is unseen"? What are some ways to do that?

Life Prayers: Pray for one another and ask God to carry each of you through the difficult things in life.