

WEEK FOUR

MARCH 19 - MARCH 25

This week's reading: John 9:1-41

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Read: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” (John 9:8, the disciples to Jesus)

Reflect: The disciples ask Jesus a classic question: Why has something bad happened to this person? Is it his fault, or someone else's? Have you ever believed that an illness was a punishment from God, or the consequence of someone's sin? Is there a difference?

Pray: Jesus, if I am judging someone for something that is not their fault, can you show me how to love them instead?

Practice: Search your yard, local park, or home for something that is different than it first appears: an ugly plant with a beautiful scent, a weird-looking food that tastes really good, a tiny ball that can bounce really high.

Monday, March 20, 2023

Read: “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” (John 9:8, the neighbors about the man born blind)

Reflect: Certainly the neighbors would have known and recognized this man who they often saw begging. When Jesus healed him, though, he changed so much as to be almost unrecognizable. Have you ever seen someone go through such a change that they were almost unrecognizable?

Pray: Holy Spirit, will you open my eyes today to the work you have done under my nose?

Practice: Say hi to someone today whom you see all the time, but rarely interact with: the bus driver, the staff in the lobby, an acquaintance at school or work, the repairperson. Learn their name if you don't know it.

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Read: “Then the Pharisees began to ask him how he had received his sight.” (John 9:15)

Reflect: In this story, the Pharisees use their questions to interrogate, harm, and disbelieve. They point all these accusations at the man born blind. Have you ever felt like you were the victim of an interrogation? What did it feel like?

Pray: Jesus, I can picture someone who bothers me, someone who has done me wrong. How would you respond to them?

Practice: Write a three-sentence letter to someone who has done you wrong. Don't deliver it.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Read: “Where is he?” (John 9:12, the Pharisees to the man born blind)

Reflect: The Pharisees ask the man born blind to take them to Jesus—but not because they believe. In this day and age, what might be the *wrong* reason to come to church or look for God?

Pray: God, do I judge myself unfairly? How do you see me instead?

Practice: Take a good long look in the mirror today. Out loud, give yourself some compliments and affirmations.

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Read: “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to be his disciples?” (John 9:35, the man born blind to the Pharisees)

Reflect: Have you ever spoken about Jesus with someone who does not believe and does not want to? What was that experience like? Alternatively, consider a time in your life when someone told *you* about God, but you could not listen.

Pray: Holy Spirit, show me someone who does not recognize the truth of your love. What can I say to serve them today?

Practice: Intentionally find a way to share God’s love today in actions only. Give food to someone who is hungry or clothing to someone in need of it. Do something to show someone that you’ve listened to them in the past. Show up at an action for justice.

Friday, March 24, 2023

Read: “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”

(John 9:36, Jesus and the man born blind)

Reflect: Jesus seeks out the man born blind after he is kicked out of his community. Have you ever felt rejected? Who sought you out? Maybe you have seen a community, family, or neighborhood reject someone. What could you do to repair the breach?

Pray: Jesus, am I satisfied with you, or do I look for something new?

Practice: Find something broken, something you may usually throw away, and fix it.

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Question jar: Take time as an individual or with others in your household to draw and explore at least one question from your question jar today. Refresh your jar with some new questions.