

## Aim of lesson

To understand what God thinks about sin and forgiveness.

## Bible background

John 8:1-11; John 9

## Outline of lesson

There is a plan of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus in the Student's Workbook, after Lesson 100.

## A man born blind

Read together the whole of John 9, using the members of the class for the different characters. Encourage the class to put expression into their parts as this can form a powerful dramatic presentation of the events. If the class are unused to reading so much, it would be helpful for them to have looked at the chapter during the previous week in order to understand "their" character better.

## Blind or seeing?

Turn to the workbook and discuss the first question. The two main reasons the Pharisees were blind are because:

1. they did not recognize Jesus as the one sent by God
2. they did not recognize their own sin.

Use the 'blind' part of the workbook to help them develop this idea, bringing out from 1 John 2:10-11 that hatred can blind people. It stops us from seeing our own sin and therefore being humble and patient with others.

The class can look through John 9 to fill in the 'seeing' box; verses 17, 25 and 38 may help.

In filling in the arrow, help the class to see the two steps in the spiritual healing Jesus gives.

1. He shows up our sin, as the light shows up dirt.
2. He brings God's full and free forgiveness to us.

## Spiritual healing

Ask the class what they know about God's forgiveness. Give them the following verses to look up in pairs: Isaiah 55:7; Psalm 103:8-12,13,17; Isaiah 43:25; Micah 7:18,19.

Discuss their findings or write them on a chart or blackboard.

## Darkness or light?

Read together John 8:2-11 and ask the class to fill in this section of the workbook. Bring out the fact that the Pharisees were blind because they had not recognised their own sin and that Jesus helped them to 'see' by making them look at their own sin. They did not receive complete sight because that involves seeing your sin, confessing it, and receiving forgiveness.

Show how Jesus immediately afterwards says "I am the light of the world". Light (a) shows up dirt, (b) lets you see where you are going, and (c) gives life (warmth and food). Jesus, the light of the world, (a) shows up our sin, (b) shows the way to the Father, (c) gives us new life, having forgiven our sins.

It is worth reflecting on the fact that light was the first of God's creations.

## Digging deeper

### Jesus and his brothers

This section looks at the attitude of Jesus' brothers, and what happened to them after the ascension.

## Relevance to our lives

Ask the class in their prayers during the week to examine their own lives to look for things which would not please God, confess them to God and accept his forgiveness, remembering the promise in 1 John 1:9.

## Prayer

Thank you Lord for forgiving us. Help us to love one another and to forgive as you do.

## Other suggestions for activities

- If you are working on a chart of the 'I AM' sayings of Jesus, it could be continued.
- A painting or collage could be made, illustrating the effect of the Light of the World.