

Life Group Questions

Kingdom Power – a sermon series in Matthew 8-10

More than Meets the Eye / Pastor Brody Loewen / Matt. 9:27-34 / Oct. 30/31, 2021

To the Life Group leader: thank you for your ministry leading this Life Group. **Take time to review the questions, selecting those you believe will be most helpful for your group study.** You will not have time to use all the questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you lead, as you select questions, and as you guide the discussion. As a team, we're praying for the Holy Spirit to guide you, lead you and speak through you.

Sight is an indispensable sense. But even if our eyes work, we might not truly see. We often miss the big picture, the work that God is doing. We can get caught up with our eyes focused on the things right in front of us, or we are focused on ourselves at the expense of the people around us. Without God's intervention, we may see with our eyes but be blind to what He is doing and what He calls us into. Today's study explores what it means to see the world through "spiritual eyes."

Reconnect

Come together with these preliminary questions:

- Have you ever struggled with your eyesight? If yes, how did getting glasses change your life?
- Have you had experiences that enabled you to "see" God and yourself more clearly?
- How did God improve your spiritual eyesight?

Open in Prayer

Invite God to speak into the lives of your group through His Spirit, through His Word and through each other.

Message Recap

Review the message using these questions

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message?
2. What was the most meaningful thing you heard in the message? Why?
3. What questions are still lingering?

Choose discussion and application questions

1) **Who is the Son of David?**

Matthew 9: 27 ***And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David.'***

a) Why did the blind men call Jesus, Son of David?

Jesus is the long-awaited Son of David. He is the one who would rule forever on David's throne. It is through Him that "all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen 12:3), and it is He who would crush the head of the serpent, defeating Satan and sin and death, and restoring us to our loving Creator and Father in Heaven (Gen 3:15).

Pastor Brody said, Jesus was fulfilling prophecy concerning the work of the Messiah. Even John the Baptist, who proclaimed the coming of the Messiah and pointed to Jesus as the One, was unsure at one time if He really was the One. In response, Jesus directed John to the miracles and signs that Jesus was performing. In Luke 7, Jesus says, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me. (Luke 7:22-23)” Over the past few weeks we have recounted the testimonies of a leper receiving the touch of Jesus and being healed. Paralyzed men, lame men unable to walk, now able to walk. A dead girl, being raised to life. A woman, healed of her bleeding. Two blind men, receiving sight. And demons being cast out, restoring men to health. These are Messianic miracles.

- b) If someone asked you what the modern signs are that Jesus is the Messiah what would you tell them?
- c) What convinced you that Jesus is the Messiah?

2) Knowing Jesus is the one we’ve waited for brings assurance.

“Now faith is being sure of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

Pastor Brody said, “Do we believe like these men did? How often we condition our belief. How often we demand things of God instead of submitting ourselves to Him. We try to make deals with God – “Jesus if you do this, I’ll never doubt you again” or something similar. Have you prayed a prayer like that?”

- a) Have you tried to “barter” with God in the past?
- b) How do you handle disappointment with life when you have committed your life to following Jesus?
- c) Have personal struggles caused you to question your faith in the past?
- d) Are you currently struggling with God’s provision or goodness?
- e) How have you resolved your struggles?

3) Knowing Jesus frees us to see differently.

29 Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.”

Pastor Brody said, “Yet in both cases it was not the extent of their faith but rather the object of their faith. Getting this wrong leads, us into all sorts of false teachings and beliefs. If the healing we desire depends on the depth of our faith, no one would be healed. No one has that kind of faith. Prosperity preachers say that you must sow your seed in faith – that what you give, you get. That the good done for you is based on the good you do or the work you put in. How karmic. How repulsive. How me-centered.”

- a) What is the significance of Pastor Brody saying, “it was not the extent of their faith but rather the object of their faith” that led to their healing?
 - i) Why is it important for Jesus to be the “object” of our faith?
 - ii) How can faith become selfish in its focus?
 - iii) What are the implications of making God’s work in our lives dependent on the “extent of our faith?”
 - (1) Jesus says that “If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you. (Matthew 17:20)”
 - (a) How has Jesus grown your faith over the years?

4) Knowing Jesus frees us to speak differently.

³² As they were going away, behold, a demon-oppressed man who was mute was brought to him. ³³ And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke. And the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.”

- a) What is the difference between speaking in human authority and Jesus speaking with the authority of God, his father?
- b) Why do the demons listen to Jesus?

- c) What authority does a Christ follower have in dealing with the demonic?
- d) Have you ever dealt with the demonic in your life or the lives of others?
 - i) Share your story with the group?
 - ii) How does the devil manipulate people most frequently today?
 - (1) Read Matthew 4:1-12.
 - (a) How did the devil try to manipulate Jesus?
 - (b) What was Jesus tempted to do?
 - (c) How does the testing of Jesus resemble the way the devil tempts us?
 - (d) How did Jesus overcome temptation?
 - (e) How can you apply Jesus' approach to the devil's attempts to entice Jesus to sin to your life?

5) Knowing Jesus frees us to live differently?

Matthew 9:34, But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

Pastor Brody said, "If anyone should have recognized who Jesus was, it would have been the Pharisees, who poured over the law and the Word of God to ensure they did not break it. They should have seen the signs and realized who was with them – the Messiah, the long-awaited Anointed One of God."

- a) Do you remember when you were "blind" to who Jesus is?
 - i) How would you describe your blindness?
 - (1) What could you not see then and that you see now?
 - (2) How did your "eyesight" change when your eyes were opened?
 - (3) How has "seeing" impacted your life over the years?
- b) Jesus later said, "'For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.'" (John 9:39-41)
 - i) What did Jesus mean when he said that the blind are not guilty?
 - (1) Guilty of what?
 - (2) How could they rid themselves of their guilt?

6) Knowing about Jesus is not enough—you have to really know Him.

James, in his practical bible book by the same name famously said, "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder." James 2:19

- a) What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus?
- b) Pastor Brody said that we "have to really know Him."
 - i) What does "really knowing" Jesus look like for you?
 - ii) How would you teach someone to "really know" Jesus?
 - (1) What are the top 3 or 4 things you would want to teach them?
 - (2) The core of making disciples is to teach them to "really know" Jesus. Are you currently discipling someone? If not, who are the people in your life that you could invite to be disciplined? If no one comes to mind, ask God to lead to that person. We are all called by Jesus to make disciples and the most impactful way to do so is in a 1 on 1 relationship.

Choose Your Next Step

What next step will you commit to for the upcoming week (and beyond)?

□ **Individual**

- Do you have behaviors or attitudes that are stopping you from following Jesus into “danger?” If yes, confess those to God.
- If you are unsure if you have any areas of your life that are not submitted to Jesus, ask the Holy Spirit to show them to you.
- Ask Jesus to forgive you for not trusting him in the “danger.”
- Commit each area of your life that you have held back from Jesus to him. Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit to walk in trust of Jesus' rule every day.

□ **Christian Community**

- Tell a trusted friend where you sense God calling you to step into “danger” and ask them to pray for you as you seek to trust and follow God in these areas.
- Reach out to your Christian community to talk through the things that pull you away from God and his ways. Ask the group to pray for you and tell them how they can support you in your walk with Jesus.

□ **The world**

- Ask God to guide you as you bring his kingdom wherever you go.
- Ask God for discernment to see where this earthly kingdom is in conflict with God's kingdom and how you can live out God's priorities in your world.

Closing Prayer

A closing prayer is an effective way to point people back to our Loving Father as they seek to apply their new learnings throughout the week. If we remain connected to the power of the Holy Spirit, He will remind us of His call for us and give us the strength to follow through. Ask group members to share what they sense God calling them to. Pray for each other and commit to continue to do so during the week as people step out in obedience to God's leading.