



Introduction

It's been said that Jesus came to give life to the dead and sight to the blind. Yet, the real death and blindness that people suffer from is "spiritual". Because our hearts are far from God, this distance from the true source of Light, places us squarely in darkness...we are blind. What we need is to have Light revealed and our blindness healed. This is what Jesus came to do.

Observation/Interpretation

- When Jesus and his disciples arrive in Bethsaida, he heals a blind man (Mark 8:22-26). How is this healing related to what happened in the previous story while in the boat (Mark 8:14-21)? Hint: A clue's given in 8:18.
- It's clear that there were no shortages of opinions as to who Jesus was (Mark 8:28). Why is Jesus so set on making sure his followers understand him clearly? How does this relate to healing spiritual blindness?

Application

- What answers do people give to the question of "who is Jesus", today?
- Why do you follow Jesus?
- Assuming Jesus was "only" a prophet, why would this alone be insufficient in rescuing us from spiritual blindness and death?

Prayer

- Pray that God would help you in understanding the lessons He's trying to teach you about himself.
- Pray for your family and friends who do not know Jesus, that their eyes would be opened to His beauty.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.