

## Small Group Discussion Guide — May 22, 2022

- Series: Before and After
  - Sermon: The Man Born Blind
  - Scripture: John 9: 1-38
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### FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Have you felt more like a 7 and up, or a 6 and below this week? What parts of each experience remind you to draw closer to Jesus?

### CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Are you the kind of person who looks forward to the change of seasons or would you rather the climate to stay the same all year? What season would you choose if you could only have one?

### ENGAGE

1. Read John 9: 1-12.
  - What idea lies behind the question that the disciples asked Jesus in verse 2? What does Jesus' answer in verses 3-5 say about the role can hardships play in our lives?
  - What physical struggle in your life has proven to be an opportunity for God to work in it?
  - What are some things you notice about the way Jesus dealt with this man? About the man's response?
2. Read John 9: 13-34. How does the blind man's response to the Pharisees in verse 25 differ from his later response in verses 30-33? What do you think might have made the difference?
3. Read John 9: 35-38.
  - What is the current social status of this formerly blind man?
  - Inferring from the passage, how has his relationship with Jesus been transformed?
  - What other things stick out to you from this passage?

### APPLY

1. How has Jesus given you brand new sight? What has he shown you that you'd never have seen without his healing? What steps can you take today to continue an open posture and willingness to gain sight from the Lord?
2. Dan talked a lot about change and transformation. How has your relationship with Christ been transformed by the experiences of your life? In what ways

does he seem closer to you now than when you first believed? Are there some ways in which he seems farther away? If so, what?

### **PRAYER**

God our Father, thank you for loving us enough to send your Son to die for our sins. Help us through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to draw closer to you, to lean in to you especially when life gets difficult. Help us to always desire a closer walk and not settle for a narrow and limited walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **GOING DEEPER**

1. We live in a society that says that the more money, power, and security you can build for yourself, the better things will be. Along with this is the notion that the more well off you are, the less inclined you will be to follow God. Yet all of us know people who have every material thing anyone could want but are still unhappy. What does this suggest about the way we are created and the true longing of our souls?
2. Dan said, "God's *after* will always be better than our *before*." What comes to mind for you as you consider this thought?

### **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE**

Luke 17: 11-19