

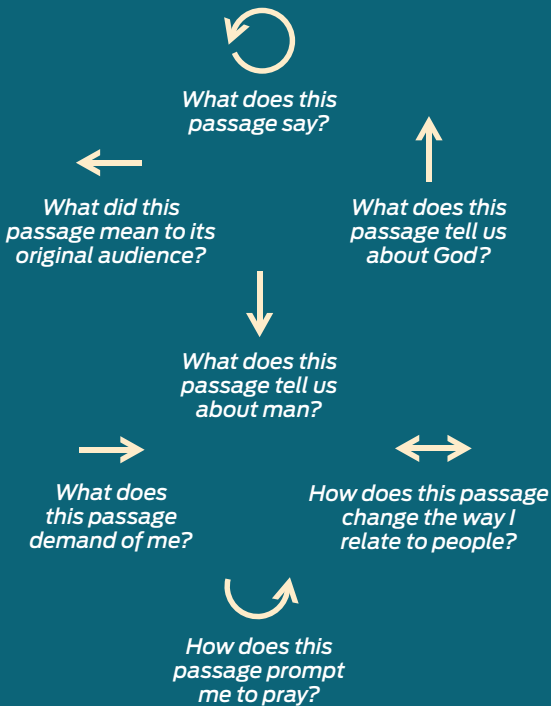
# Daily Devotions



Day 1

## John 9:1-7

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Jesus' answer to the disciples' question about the blind man wasn't what they expected. They asked Him for a cause, but Jesus responded in terms of purpose—this man had been blind all of his life so that the works of God would be displayed in him. God used the healing of this blind man to reveal that Jesus is the light of the world, to confront the Pharisees in their blindness, and to bring the man born blind to salvation.

Christians aren't promised freedom from suffering in the world, nor are we often given a reason for our suffering. But we do have the hope and assurance that for the believer, our suffering has purpose in the hands of a sovereign God. As Romans 8:28 reminds us, all things, good and terrible, are being worked together by a gracious Father for our good and His glory.

**In what ways have you seen God at work in your suffering, past and present?**

# John 9:8-12

The neighbors of this man couldn't believe their own eyes. They wondered if this man with sight was really the same blind man they knew or if he were just someone who looked a lot like him. The encounter with Jesus had so drastically changed the man born blind that those around him couldn't help but notice. The witness of the Gospels is that those who had a supernatural encounter with Jesus left the interaction significantly changed.

Following Jesus by faith will produce indelible changes in our lives that others should notice. The way we live, the way we speak, and how we interact with others will all be affected as we follow Christ. And as others wonder at the changes in our lives, we're able to share about the One who changed our lives.

**What is one way your life has been different since following Jesus?**

# John 9:13-28

The Pharisees were trying to get to the bottom of this miracle in the man who had been blind. They interrogated him about what happened. They asked him who he thought Jesus was, but they didn't like his answer, so they interrogated his parents next. Afraid, his mother and father deflected to their son, so the Pharisees went again to ask the man what really happened. His response was simple: "I was blind, and now I can see!" (v. 25). At that, they began to ridicule him.

This man wasn't well versed in theology, nor could he tell you much about Jesus. What he did know was what Jesus had done and how that had changed him. This is at the heart of what it means to witness to others about Jesus. Though they are helpful to have, we ultimately don't need all the answers. What we need is a testimony about how Jesus has changed our life.

**How would you answer someone who asked you what Jesus has done for you?**

# John 9:29-34

Things seemed to be going in the right direction for the man who had been born blind because he wasn't blind anymore! After a lifetime of hearing people talk about sight but never experiencing it himself, he now could see what his parents looked like, the majestic rise of trees, and the synagogue he worshiped in. This was probably the best day of his life.

Then the religious leaders excommunicated him from the synagogue because he said Jesus had come from God. This man's young faith brought rejection from his neighbors, his leaders, and perhaps even his parents. Scripture doesn't promise that following Jesus means life gets easier. Often it means it gets harder. Jesus is the light of the world who brought love, grace, and healing, and yet, He was crucified, and His followers should expect the same hatred and persecution Jesus experienced from the world (John 15:18-21). You may be rejected in this life because of your faith, but God's promise is that there is joy and a future hope because Jesus was rejected for us.

**What promises of God can you cling to when trials and suffering come?**

# John 9:35-41

Upon hearing that the man He healed had been thrown out of the synagogue, Jesus went and found the man so that He could reveal Himself as the Messiah. Jesus was on a divine mission, walking toward the cross, and yet, He went back to this man who had been cut off religiously and socially. The same Jesus who healed the man without prompting now sought him out and gave him true spiritual sight to see Jesus for who He really is. Jesus doesn't just care about performing miracles; He cares that people see Him as true light.

Our true need isn't just physical needs being met. Our true need is a spiritual need—to see Jesus rightly and worship Him. We mustn't neglect physical needs, but as we work to alleviate suffering and meet the needs of those around us, we ought always to point people to Jesus.

**In what ways can you meet the physical needs of the people you are sharing the gospel with?**