

DOWN TO EARTH

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



WEEK 1 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - JESUS MEETS US WHERE WE ARE

CONNECT

- **Have you ever been somewhere that was completely dark? A basement with no windows or lights? Have you ever had to perform a task blindfolded during a game or team building exercise? Take a moment to describe those times to others in your group. What words would you use to describe that experience?**

CONSIDER

- **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?**

CHRIST

Read Mark 10:46-52 (NIV)

In this story, we see the blind man, Bartimaeus, being healed by Jesus. However, one of the most incredible things about the Bible is that we can see so many life lessons for us today in just seven short verses of scripture about an event that happened over 2,000 years ago. The story could have been told this simply: Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and others, came across a blind man, and healed him. However, God chose to give us this story in seven, very rich verses. One way to unpack the lessons we are to learn from scripture is to ask why. Why did God tell us this story in seven verses when He could have told us in one? Why did He choose to include certain things to describe this event? Let's look at some of those whys:

- When reading this story in the NIV, we see that Bartimaeus called to Jesus three times using three different names: "Jesus", "Son of David", and "Rabbi." Here is what each name means:
 - Jesus - Savior, Rescuer
 - Son of David - The Promised Messiah from the lineage of David & Abraham
 - Rabbi - Teacher

There are many other names given to Jesus in scripture in addition to these such as Emmanuel, The Lamb of God, etc. **Why do you suppose God gave Jesus three different names in telling the same story? What are we to learn about Jesus based on these names and other names He is given? How does this affect your faith?**

- Many in the crowd rebuked Bartimaeus when he called out to Jesus, but Jesus let it be known that he was fine with Bartimaeus calling to Him. **Why is this an important part of this story?**

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- It is interesting that Jesus made Bartimaeus get up and come to Him; a hard task for a blind man. **Should Jesus have gone to Bartimaeus instead? What are we to learn from Jesus calling for the blind man to come to Him? Why was this included in this story?**
- Upon hearing that Jesus was calling for Bartimaeus to come to Him, we see a vivid description of how Bartimaeus reacted. He didn't take off his cloak and stand to his feet, but rather Bartimaeus **threw** off his cloak and **jumped** to his feet. **Does this tell you anything about the attitude we should display in our approach to Jesus? If Bartimaeus simply took off his cloak and stood to his feet, a different attitude altogether, do you think Jesus' response would have been the same?**
- "What do you want me to do for you?" is the question Jesus asked Bartimaeus even though he knew what the question would be. **Why did Jesus ask a question He already knew the answer to? Does your answer change the way you pray?**

CALLING

- In this story, we see three things from Bartimaeus:
 - the humbleness of his approach: "have mercy on me."
 - the clearness of his request: "I want to see."
 - the belief in his heart: "your faith has healed you."**During this holiday season, we encourage you to focus on these things in your prayers and petitions to God; the humbleness of your approach, the clearness of your request, and the belief in your heart that God is able to answer your prayers.**
- **Daily Devotions:** Take the time to read the daily devotions associated with this study. Then, to continue with this spiritual habit of daily devotion with God, text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in Northside's App to receive devotions on a daily basis moving forward.
- **Further Study and Reflection:**
 - Taking the time to read scriptures that seem on the surface very opposite and studying them to the point where they both make sense is a great way to glean understanding that you might not have otherwise. With this in mind, take some time to read and pray over the following scriptures:
 - Psalm 37:4 - "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."
 - Jeremiah 17:9 - "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"
 - A question to consider - **If our hearts are deceitful and beyond cure, why would God give us the desires of our heart?**
- **Memorize:** "*Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will lift you up*" - **James 4:10**