

Group Discussion Questions

Week 1



Can You See Him? Week 1

- Describe a time when a situation in your life turn out completely different than what you expected.

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

Luke 24:13-15 (NIV)

- What are some things that distract us from seeing Christ at times in our everyday lives? How can we get past these distractions?

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

Luke 24:17-21 (NIV)

- Sometimes it is easier to see God's work as you reflect back over your life. Looking back, describe a time when it was difficult for you to see God working in your life. Do you see that time in your life differently now?
- How do trials in your life sometimes change your relationship with Christ?

In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

Luke 24:22-24 (NIV)

- Why is it sometimes so difficult for us to see God when we face the harsh realities of life?

So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

Luke 24:29b-31 (NIV)

- In what ways has God clearly spoken to you? What was the last thing He has told you?

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations..."

Luke 24:45-47 (NIV)

- The two men's eyes were opened to see Jesus with them. Describe a time when you had your "eyes opened" or a spiritual awakening. How did God give you "eyes to see" something you missed before.

Final thought: Some in your group may be in the middle of a painful season where it is difficult to see God at work. Take time to pray for each other and ask God to give you eyes to see His hand in your lives.

Group Discussion Questions

Week 1



Can You See Him? Week 1

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- How do you respond when someone tells you good could come from the trials and tribulations you face?

Explore

Read James 1:1-18

- What attitude did James tell people to exhibit when they are facing trials? (1:2)
- What is produced when our faith is tested? (1:3-4)
- What is God's response when we ask for wisdom? (1:5)
- What effect does doubt have on a person when he or she prays? (1:6-8)
- What reward awaits the person who perseveres under trial? (1:12)
- From where does temptation come? (1:13-15)
- How does sin start and end? (1:13-15)

- From where do all good and perfect gifts come? (1:16-17)
- How did James describe God's relationship with the people He created? (1:17-18)

Reflect

- What are some of the trials and difficulties you have experienced during your life?
- What is one good thing to ever come out of a difficult situation in your life?
- How does a person's relationship with God change as he or she goes through trials and problems?
- When do you find it hardest to pray?
- With what doubts have you struggled concerning God and prayer?
- How can doubting affect a person's conversations with God?

Apply

- What do you believe God is trying to teach you this week through the trials and situations you may be currently experiencing?

Group Discussion Questions

Week 1



Can You See Him?—Week 1

Can You See Him

One way for people to see God is through other believers. This week consider becoming the hands and feet of Christ to someone you know that is struggling. Take time to do something that would be a blessing, encouragement or help to someone you know. Your kindness will reflect God's kindness to those who may be distracted by the realities of life. Be prepared to come back next and share your experience and how that impacted the life of another. This is something you can do by yourself or with your group. Here are some ideas you might want to consider.

- Buy groceries or help meet the financial needs of someone who just lost their job.
- Offer comfort to someone who may have lost a loved one by sending them a gift, flowers or a card or email of encouragement.
- Offer to help with housework or run errands for someone who maybe in the middle of an illness.
- Go and visit anyone you may know who is in the hospital.
- Go and work at a local charity this week.

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Luke 24:13-15. Confess to God those things that are distracting you from truly seeing Him in your life. Ask for God's help in removing these distractions.

Day 2: Read Luke 24:17-21. Praise God for what has revealed to you through the various trials you have faced in your life.

Day 3: Read Luke 24:22-24. Pray about the trials you are currently going through. Ask for God to reveal Himself to you during this time and help you through these difficult times.

Day 4: Read Luke 24:29-47. Pray and ask God to speak into your life. Listen for His answer.

Day 5: Read James 1:1-18. Pray for those you know who are currently facing hard times. Ask for God to not only help them during this time, but to make his presence felt in a very real way.



Can You See Him? Week 2

- Describe an experience you that seemed unusual at the time, but turned out to be God working in your life.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1-2 (NIV)

- Paul's persecution of Christians made it seem like he would be the least likely to ever become a follower of Christ. Describe someone you know or have heard about that seemed unlikely to follow Christ but ultimately found their lives radically changed by Christ.

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9:3-5 (NIV)

- God revealed Himself to Saul with a flash of light on the road to Damascus. In what ways has God revealed Himself to you?

"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9:6 (NIV)

- Describe a time when you believed God was leading you to do something. Why did you believe it was God? How did you respond to that experience?

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

Acts 9:7-9 (NIV)

- Sometimes God works through extreme circumstances to gain our attention such His blinding of Saul. Have you experienced God doing something extreme in your life to gain your attention? If so, describe it.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying..." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

Acts 9: 10-11, 13-14 (NIV)

- Ananias answered the voice of God and said, "Yes, Lord..." implying he was ready and willing to do what God asked. Is there anything God has been leading you to do that you haven't said "yes" to? If so, what is it?

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here — has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.

Acts 9:15,17-18a (NIV)

- God does not choose the prepared, but rather He prepares the chosen such as Saul. How have you seen God prepare you throughout the various seasons of your life to carry out His purpose? How are you seeing God preparing you now for some purpose He has for you in the future?

Final thought: God has specific purposes for each of us. Open yourselves up to God and ask Him to reveal those purposes to you. Ask God to open your eyes just as He did Saul's and truly reveal Himself to you.



Can You See Him? Week 2

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- What motivates people to make major changes in their lives?

Explore

Read Romans 6:1-14

- What does baptism symbolize about our relationship to Christ? (6:2-4)
- What makes it possible for a person to live a new life? (6:4)
- Before a person is united to Christ, to what is he or she a slave? (6:6)
- How does being united with Christ through His death change our relationship to sin? (6:7)
- How will uniting with Christ in His death change the future of our lives? (6:8-10)

- What change in attitude and action toward God happens in a person who follows Christ? (6:11-13)
- How does being under grace change a person? (6:14)

Reflect

- What does this passage tell us about all people and their relationship to God?
- What kind of changes does God make in our lives when we become Christians?
- How does God help a person discard old habits and tendencies?
- How does God give a person a new self?
- What does it mean to live a new life for God?
- In what ways is a Christian truly free?

Apply

- What are some specific ways you can offer yourself as an instrument of righteousness to God and others this week?



Can You See Him? Week 2

Can You See Him

God has a purpose for each of us that He is preparing us for in our daily lives. This week focus on your relationship with God and attempt to seek out the purpose He has for you and specific things He wants you to accomplish for His glory. As you undertake this inward journey of discovery this week, here are some specific things you can do to help you uncover the unique plans God has in store for you.

- Spend time in prayer each day seeking His purpose. You might consider using the daily prayer guide that is supplied on this page to help direct your prayers.
- Spend time reading the Bible. Study the passage from Acts 9 or other Scriptures that God is leading you to read.
- Seek counsel from your spiritual elders or accountability partners. Many times God speaks to us through the wisdom of others. Intentionally set aside time this week to meet with that person and seek their advice. Pray with that person.
- Journal your thoughts during your prayer time. If you do not regularly journal during your prayer time, try doing so this week and write down what things God is telling you. At the end of the week review what you have written in your journal and see if you have a better understanding of what God is trying to show you.

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Acts 9:1-2. Pray for those that you know who are living their lives without God. Pray that God will open their eyes to His truth.

Day 2: Read Acts 9:3-6. Pray and ask God to continue to reveal Himself to you and what purposes He has planned for your life.

Day 3: Read Acts 9:7-14. Continue to ask God to help you understand the role He has for you to play. Make yourself ready and willing to play this role like Ananias was.

Day 4: Read Acts 9:15-18. Ask God to continue preparing you in all areas of your life for the great purposes He has in store for your life.

Day 5: Read Romans 6:1-14. Thank God for opening your eyes to His truth and the transformation in your life.



Can You See Him? Week 3

- How do you typically handle disappointments in your life? Do you tend to let them get the best of you or have you learned to handle them better?

As (Jesus) went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

John 9:1-3 (NIV)

- You don't have to understand everything to believe in something. Though some things are unexplainable, other things are undeniable. What are some undeniable attributes of God you have experienced first hand?
- Is it difficult for you to talk about your disappointments with others? Why or why not? Is it difficult for you to talk about your disappointments with God? Why or why not?

...(Jesus) spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

John 9:6b-7 (NIV)

- Describe a time when you were "spiritually blind" and God opened your eyes to the truth. What did you learn from the experience?

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded.

John 9:8-10 (NIV)

- Has there been a time when you experienced God's healing in your life? If so, describe it. Were the people around you aware of your healing? Why or why not?

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

John 9:13-16 (NIV)

- Sometimes our view of God can be very limited. Have you ever seen God work through someone or something where you didn't think He would? If so, describe your experience. How did that experience affect your view of God?

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

John 9:35-38 (NIV)

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

- According to Isaiah 55:8-9, we cannot understand everything God does. Has God ever asked you to do something where the purpose wasn't clear to you? If so, what was it? Did you do what He asked? Why or why not? Would you be ok with never knowing His purpose? Why or why not?

Final thought: Pray with your group. Talk with God, openly and honestly, about any disappointments in your life right now. Ask Him for wisdom and the insight to see His purposes. Ask Him for the grace and peace to accept His purposes that are beyond your understanding.



Can You See Him? Week 3

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. You can also use these questions and scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- Describe a time when you doubted a story even though it was from a reliable source.

Explore

Read John 20:24-31

- What had the other disciples told Thomas? (20:24)
- What did Thomas say he needed in order to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead? (20:25)
- How did Jesus restore Thomas's faith? (20:26)
- What did Jesus say to Thomas? (20:27)
- What did Thomas say in response to Jesus' words? (20:28)

- What did Jesus say about seeing and believing? (20:29)
- What results from believing that Jesus is the Son of God? (20:31)

Reflect

- When have you had doubts about your faith in Christ?
- What are some ways we can deal with our doubts about God?
- Why is it difficult at times to believe in Christ?
- What are some of the major areas of your life where you could trust Christ more?

Apply

- What doubts concerning your relationship with Christ are you currently struggling with?
- What are some ways those around you can help you process the doubts and questions you are having?
- How can you help them in the same way?



Can You See Him? Week 4

- What are some of the trials or hurts you are currently dealing with in your life? Share with your group how they can support and pray for you.

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Mark 10:46-47 (NIV)

- When is it easiest for you to take time out of your schedule to focus on your relationship with Christ? Why do we often turn to Christ only during the bad times?
- What do you think motivated Bartimaeus to try and get Jesus attention? What motivates you to call out to Jesus?

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Mark 10:48 (NIV)

- Sometimes when we endure difficulties we tend to listen to the opinion of others rather than listening to God. Describe a time when missed an opportunity for God to work in your life because you were discouraged by others opinions? How did the situation ultimately turn out?

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

Mark 10:49-51 (NIV)

- Bartimaeus demonstrated incredible persistence in calling out to Jesus to meet his physical need. What role do you think persistence plays in prayer?
- What does this passage of Scripture tell you about Jesus' attitude towards hurting people?

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Mark 10:52 (NIV)

- What connection have you seen in your own life between your faith in God and your understanding of God's answers to your prayers?

Final thought: Pray that God will bring comfort and healing in the lives of everyone in your group. As a group encourage each other to call out to Jesus in the good times and in the bad.



Can You See Him? Week 4

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- Why do people sometimes blame God for difficult circumstances?

Explore

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

- What does God do when we are troubled? (1:4)
- How does God involve Himself in our troubles? (1:4-5)
- What did Paul's distress produce for the Corinthians? (1:6)
- In what way is patient endurance produced in Christians? (1:6)
- Why did Paul tell the Corinthians about the hardships he had endured? (1:8)
- Why did Paul despair? (1:8)
- How did Paul's confidence in God enable him to rise above his despair? (1:8-10)
- For what reason did Paul endure suffering? (1:9)
- How did the Corinthians help Paul through his hardships? (1:11)

Reflect

- How does God want us to help one another in difficult circumstances?
- How can you help other Christians who are suffering?
- How have other Christians helped you through difficult circumstances?
- How can you rely more on God instead of yourself in times of hardship?
- What can we do to learn patience and endurance from our hardships?

Apply

- What are some specific things you can do this week to show love and concern for someone you know who is suffering? Commit to your group that you will help someone this week who is suffering.

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Mark 10:46-47. Spend time calling out to Jesus in prayer and opening your heart to Him. Pray honestly and openly.

Day 2: Read Mark 10:48. Pray for those that tend to force their opinions on you and sway you away from God's will. Pray for those who persecute you for your faith.

Day 3: Read Mark 10:49-51. Lift up your burdens to God in prayer. Ask Him to help you through any difficulties you may be experiencing.

Day 4: Read Mark 10:52. Commit to God that you will spend time talking and listening to Him in both good and bad times.

Day 5: Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11. Pray for those you know who are currently enduring difficult times. Pray that God will comfort them during this time.