

Apply

Right now (Come and see):

In a lavish display of the kindness and power of God, Jesus miraculously healed this man after a lifetime of physical blindness. In verse 16, this miracle is again referred to as a sign. We believe that Jesus still loves to reveal his kindness and power today through signs of healing.

Sometimes, like in this story, healing happens physically. We also see in this story that Jesus opens spiritually blind eyes, healing their inability to see Jesus clearly. Sometimes healing can be an inward transformation or an experience of peace that surpasses all understanding of your circumstances.

Is anyone here feeling sick or in pain? Is anyone in need of inner healing, or some kind of personal breakthrough? If so, would you mind if we took a minute to pray for you, that God would reveal his love and power by healing you right now? Remember, the purpose of healing is to glorify God and reveal his love. Even if you don't experience physical healing, God still loves you!

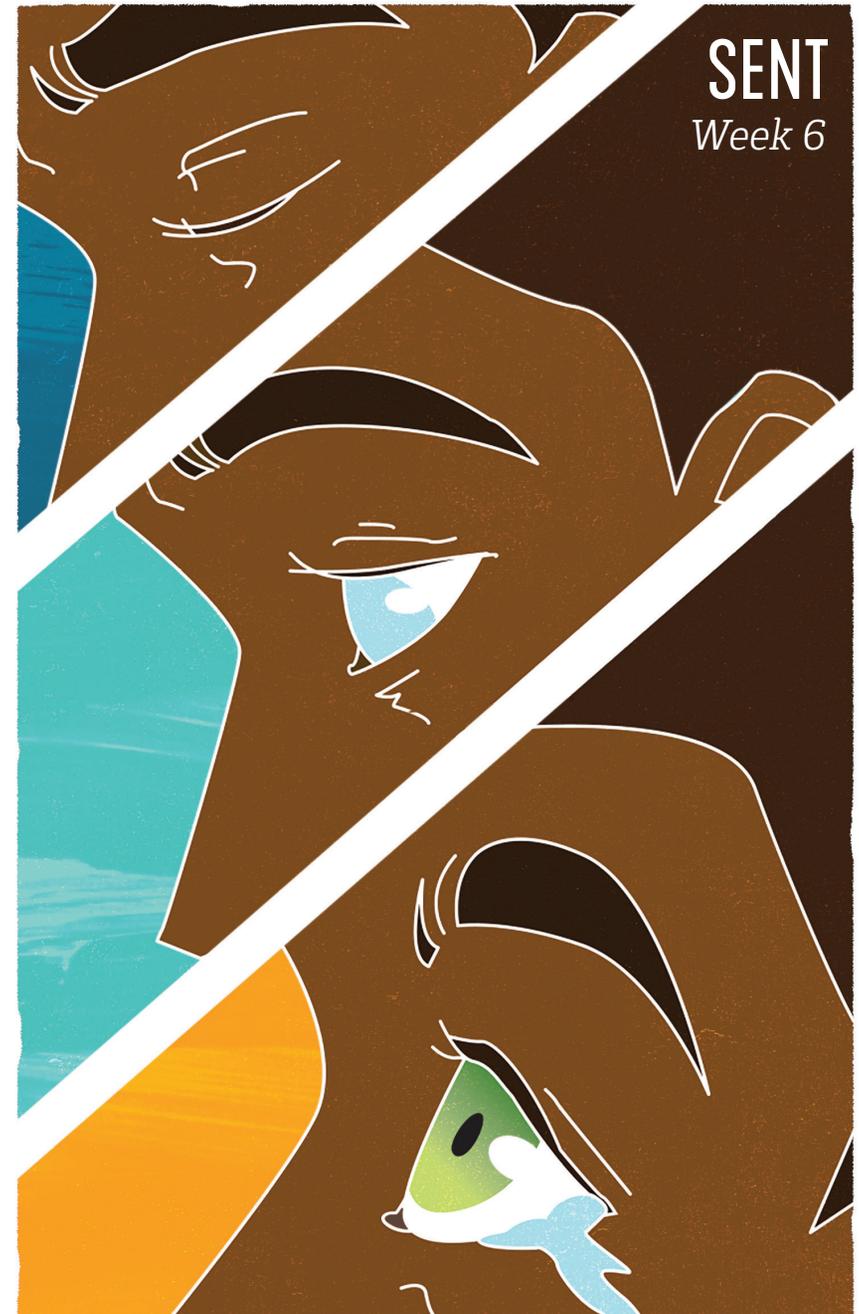
This week (Go and do):

After this man was healed at the pool of Siloam (which means Sent) he was immediately "sent" to tell the crowds and religious leaders about Jesus. Part of what it means to follow Jesus is to be sent out by him and to share his good news with the people around us. How confident do you feel about sharing the gospel (the good news of Jesus)? Follow the QR code below to see one example of how the good news of Jesus can be shared. Would you be up for taking a risk and sharing the gospel with a non-Christian friend this week?



The Big Story

The Big Story is a way to share the Gospel that remains true to the Scriptures, yet connects with people today.



John 9:1-7, 13-17, 24-41 (NIV)

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" ²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" ²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man

asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." ³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" ⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

Intro

Today's story begins when Jesus and his followers meet a man who was blind from birth. It was a common belief at this time that all types of suffering (including physical conditions like blindness) were the result of sin, either yours or your parents'. But Jesus challenged that narrative as he healed the man and honored him as a powerful example of following Jesus.

Discuss

1. Let's continue to pay attention to Jesus' spiritual vision. When Jesus saw this man, how do you think he saw his Father at work? How was Jesus' perspective different from the disciples or the Pharisees?
2. Try to put yourself in this man's shoes. What would it have been like to follow Jesus' instructions? What different emotions would you have had along the way?
3. What was significant about sending this man to the pool of Siloam, which means "Sent"?
4. What risks does this man take as he tells the story of what Jesus has done for him?
5. How does this man's perspective of Jesus (his spiritual sight) change over the course of the story? How does the spiritual sight of the Pharisees change?
6. Who was blind in this story and who sees clearly?