

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a 5-minute review of Peppy's sermon

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions for April 24 - John 9:1-7

Title: Why Me, Lord?

John 9:1-7 *As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.*

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."

Question: A coffee shop I frequent has written on its wall: "Everything happens for a reason." I've wanted to add: "When you learn what it is, tell me." We all want to know why bad things happen, including Jesus' disciples.

Given Jesus' answer, what should they have asked instead?

Question: The disciples thought the man was blind from birth either because of his own sin or his parents' sin.

Does God cause tragedy and suffering as punishment for sin? Is sin ever a reason for suffering? If so, explain. **Facilitator:** Natural conse-

quences of behavior can be a reason for suffering, and suffering exists because we live in a fallen, sinful world.

Question: Jesus said the man was born blind so the works of God could be displayed in him.

What “works” was Jesus referring to? How willing are we to suffer so the works of God can be displayed? How can we display the works of God with regard to the suffering of others? How willing are we to display God at work in relieving a person’s suffering as a consequence of sinful behavior?

Question: Pastor Peppy told us miracles are not always packaged the way we want them. Perhaps this is why we don’t recognize miracles when they happen.

Share from experience any display of God at work that didn’t conform to what you expected a miracle to be.

Question: Pastor Peppy assigned homework at the end of Sunday’s sermon.

What was it, and what are we doing individually or as a Connect Group to complete the assignment?