

The following are discussion questions based on the sermon by Pastor Michael Turner entitled “Healing Blindness.” This sermon was preached on June 7th and is the fifth of a seven-part series on the Gospel of John. These questions can be used as a resource to guide discussion after viewing the message from our pastors. We hope these will be a great resource for you as you come together to dig deeper into God’s word.

1. What do you think was the main point of Michael’s “Healing Blindness” sermon?
2. Pastor Michael used the term “confirmational bias.” How would you define this term in your own words?
3. Do you see evidence of confirmation bias in your own life? If so, share with the group where you are more prone to quickly gravitate toward information that confirms your world view.
4. Are you aware of any situations or issues for which you tend to have a willful blindness and are immediately dismissive of other perspectives?
5. What new insights or questions did you glean from the John 9:1-34 passage?
6. Why do you think the disciples automatically assumed that either the blind man or his parents had sinned?
7. How would you interpret Jesus’ response: “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.” (John 9:3 NRSV)
8. Why do you think Jesus chose to use “mud and saliva” to heal this blind man?
9. Why did the leaders bring the blind man to the Pharisees?
10. Why do you think the Pharisees reacted so negatively to this man’s miraculous healing?
11. How does the term, “confirmation bias” apply to this story?
12. What are some practical things we can do to retrain ourselves in this area?

Scripture References:

John 9:1-34;
Ephesians 5:8-14;
1 Kings 19:11-13;
Matthew 25:31-40