## The Gospel of John John 9

Memory Verse: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12 ESV).

## **Background Helps:**

John 9 appears to be a continuation of Jesus' visit to Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles or shortly thereafter (see forecast for week #10). The miracle in John 9 takes place on a Sabbath (vv. 14, 16) and precipitates the second Sabbath controversy in the Gospel of John (see John 5:9-10, 16, 18; 7:22-23).

## **Lesson Helps:**

A possible lesson aim: My students will learn that Jesus is the Light of the world, so that they will believe and follow him. The memory verse, illustrated by the story of the healing of the man blind man, is the obvious focus for this lesson. Jesus identifies himself as the Light of the world in John 8:12 and again in 9:5.

This entire chapter is devoted to the one incident of Jesus healing the blind man. Several methods seem like a natural fit for this lesson:

- 1. Drama. Prepare a script of the story (simply make copies of the chapter from a modern translation of the Bible and mark the various roles with a yellow highlighter). Assign parts to the blind man, Jesus, the disciples, the neighbors, the Pharisees, and the blind man's parents. Dramatize the story reading the parts, with characters making appropriate movements on "stage." Discussion questions: (1) What was the reaction of various people to Jesus and his miracle? (2) Trace the growth of the blind man's faith.
- 2. Darken your room as much as possible and light a lantern in the room. How is Jesus like this light? Go over the memory verse.
- 3. Ask someone ahead of time to share his/her testimony (see verse 25).
- 4. Invite your students to believe and follow Jesus, like the blind man did. This could happen in silent prayer, with a written commitment on a slip of paper, in audible prayer, etc.

## **Home Assignment:**

Read: John 10

Memorize: John 10:11

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