



Small Group Guide Week 3 INTRO: After a particularly bad day in the garden, God addresses Adam and Eve with a simple question: *Where are you?* In this moment, God responds to the first signs of brokenness in the world with a question of identity. Members of the church of Jesus Christ have one thing in common—they have heard God’s whisper amidst their brokenness and said Yes to becoming a people marked by love.

1. When you mess up, what are your first thoughts? How do you believe God sees you?

READ John 9:1–11:

1. Who do you identify with the most in this story? Why?
2. Do Christians need to “wash” to receive sight?
3. What does it say about the crowd and God’s power if no one believed the man’s story?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. “God doesn't like us more when we succeed or less when we fail.” (p. 102) Why is this so hard to grasp? Are you more defined by your sin or God’s love for you?
2. Bob quotes another blind man who, when being healed, needs a second touch. How does his recognition of continued need contribute to his healing? Is it the same for you?
3. Lex jumps because he trusts his friend. What keeps you from trusting Jesus like this?
4. Read Romans 5:8. How does being loved as a sinner affect how you love others?

OUTRO: Jesus did not merely identify with the blind man’s suffering; he got in the mud with him. As followers of Christ, we are called to get in the mud with those who suffer, but we do this in recognition that we, too, are in the mud! As broken people, we stand on the same ground as everybody else in God’s eyes. The only difference is that we have been washed by the revelation of God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. God loves you, regardless of what you have done or will do. Be washed clean to go and love in Jesus’ name.

PRAY TOGETHER:

Pray Psalm 32 and rejoice in the joy that comes from God's forgiveness.