

### Lesson 3 - Apostolic People

#### Ages 8 to 9 years

We are going to read from **John C9 v 1-42**

In these verses we are going to learn about a man who was born blind from birth. Jesus and His disciples were passing by when they saw the blind man. Jesus stopped to heal him. The disciples wanted to know from Jesus who had sinned, whether it was him or his parents.

The bible says that whenever we sin, there are consequences that follow.

Do you know what 'consequences' means? It is when you have done something wrong, and as a result of your wrong doing there are actions that take place.

Example: You are writing your final exams and instead of studying you choose to watch television or play with your friends, and as a result you did not study. You then fail on that subject, whereas if you chose to study you would have passed. **(Children to give their understanding – teacher to approve)**

**Memory Verse: Gal C6:7 says: 'Whatever a man sows that he will also reap'.**

We all agree then that the bible teaches that there will be some bad things that will happen to us when we sin.

This is why the disciples thought that someone had sinned and that is why the man was born blind.

**Here we see Jesus healing the blind man.**



#### John C9 v8-38

8Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

9Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he."

10Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?"

11He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight."

12Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

13They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees.

14Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

15Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

16Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them.

17They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

18But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight.

Page 2

19And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

20 His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind;

21"but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself."

22His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

23Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this man is a sinner".

25He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

26Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"

27He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?"

28Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples.

29"We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from."

30The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!"

31"Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him."

32"Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind."

33"If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."

34They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out.

35Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

36He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord that I may believe in Him?"

37And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you."

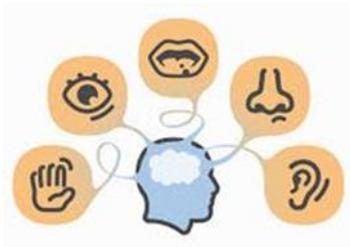
38Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

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### **1.What spiritual application can you make from John 9:1 "*blind from birth*"in terms of a new birth?**

When we are born as babies we all have 5 senses. Do we know what these are? They are:

Sight - Hearing - Taste - Smell - Touch



If we lose any one of these senses, we will not be able to live normal lives and we would have to depend on others for help.

In the natural 'blind from birth' means that this man could not see. In the spiritual, this means that although we are saved and are born-again, we might not understand what God is saying now.

Page 3

Do we know the story of how Lazarus was raised from the tomb?

Lazarus had passed on. When Jesus had summoned for Lazarus to come out he came out still wearing the grave clothes. He was now born again but blind because the grave clothes were covering his eyes. The grave clothes are a picture of something that comes to stop us from what God wants us to do for Him. It blinds you from seeing what God has purposed for you in His Kingdom.

Let us look at another example in the Word of God about people being blind:

**This is recorded in: Acts 19:2-6**

When we read the above scriptures we see how the Ephesian believers were taught about the baptism of John but did not know of the baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus and of the Holy Spirit baptism. They knew of only one experience with God but were ignorant of the next.

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## **2. Jesus said 'I must work the works of Him who sent me'. What is this work?**

The work of God is that you **BELIEVE** in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Memory Verse: John 6:29 - 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent'.**

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## **3. What did Jesus mean in vs 3 "that the works of God should be revealed in Him."**

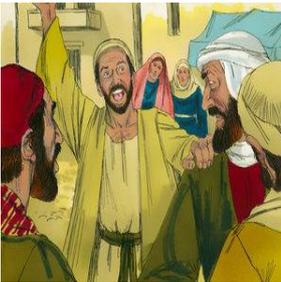
Do you all know what the word reveal means?

It means that something that was kept a secret is now brought out in the open.

The Pharisees did not believe that Jesus Christ was Lord therefore Jesus had to perform the miracle by making the blind man see. Through this others may believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In our story we read that the blind man was taken to some people called the Pharisees for questioning. They asked him how he received his sight. He answered and said that a man put clay on his eyes, and after he washed, he could see.

Here we see the Pharisees questioning the man.



#### 4. The difference between the Charismatic and the Apostolic movements:

##### Charismatic Movement:

Many people believed and depended on the external actions of man which did not work, for example Samson said that his strength was in his hair.

Here we see Samson showing his own strength in his hair.



##### Apostolic Movement:

In this season, God expects us to take personal responsibility for our lives. This means that our behavior, our speech and our thoughts must be according to the Word of God.

Remember in the story Jesus applied clay on the man's eyes. This did not heal the man. His healing only came when he obeyed Jesus' instruction to go to the pool to wash his eyes.

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#### 5. What qualities should be seen in Apostolic People

The word Apostle means one who is sent forth. Apostolic refers to the position of being sent. Apostolic people know that they are sent.

Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest. He is sent by the Father.

**Memory Verse:** *John 20:21- As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'*

When we connect with Apostolic anointing certain things are seen in our lives. After the blind man received his sight his life was changed.

The following characteristics are seen in Apostolic People and are called THEWORKS OF GOD.

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##### 5.1 Lifestyle Transformation -'is not this he who sat and begged'

The neighbours and those who had previously known him to be blind did not recognize him when they saw him. Remember that Jesus did not change his appearance in any way. The only thing different about this man was that he could now see.

Here we see the man that received his sight.



**Why do you think that his neighbors did not recognize him?**

**Answer:**His walk now changed. He no longer walked as that of a blind person. His walk was now sturdier and confident. When you connect with the apostolic anointing your walk will change and so will your lifestyle. You will begin to do what God has set out for you to do according to His Will.

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**5.2 Instant Witness- 'A man called Jesus'**

The man immediately testifies of Jesus to everyone in his neighborhood. Apostolic people are instant witnesses of Jesus Christ. Attention is always pointed to Jesus.

**Memory Verse:** *Acts 1:8 says - 'and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'*

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**5.3: Inspiration of a Christ- pursuing mentality -'Where is he'.**

After the people had witnessed this miracle they too began looking for Jesus. Apostolic believers are not only witnesses; their behavior makes others look for Jesus.

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**5.4 Clarity of Message: 'He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see'**

Apostolic believers have a clear message. They have a clear understanding of the word. They know when truth is being spoken and they are not confused.

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**5.5 Maturity - 'He is of age'**

Apostolic believers are known by their spiritual maturity. They are able to explain spiritual things.

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**5.6 Sought out -'Ask Him'**

People look for Apostolic believers because they have answers to tough questions and this is why they are sought out.

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**Memory Verses for the children to learn:**

**Gal 6:7** - **'Whatever a man sows that he will also reap'.**

**John 6:29** - **'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent'.**

**John 20:21 - 'As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'**

**Acts 1:8 says - 'And you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,  
and to the end of the earth.'**