

# “His Unexpected Touch”

## Unexpected: Following Jesus #2

### INTRODUCTION

Who doesn't want a touch from God? But what do we expect to happen when He touches us? In this study we look at two instances where Jesus touched someone and changed their lives. In the first instance we see Jesus giving sight to the blind men and in the second he heals the leper. As we look closely into these two events, we'll learn how God continues to offer us His healing touch to us today.

#### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

When you arrived at your study today, did someone reach out to you with a special touch; a handshake or a hug?

### Study Questions (45 MIN)

#### **I. His touch brings sight: The blind man**

##### **Q1. Read Matthew 9:27-29; John 9:5-7**

In the passage from Matthew, Jesus encounters two blind men seeking mercy. What did Jesus ask them before He touched their eyes? Their sight was restored according to the faith they had. How would you say that the level of your faith has influenced your ability to see things more clearly? Can you share an example of an area where your faith has given you clarity?

##### **Q2. Read Isaiah 59:9-10; John 8:12**

In his prophecies, Isaiah described the condition of a sinful and rebellious people. What does he say is the consequence of their sin? How does Jesus' description of himself (John 8:12) offer the solution to our problem (Is 59:9)?

##### **Q3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, John 12:31**

Sometimes we forget that there is a spiritual war being waged over the souls of men. In 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 Paul tells us “the god of this world” has blinded the minds of unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel. That “god” was identified by Jesus as he explained his impending death to his disciples in John 12:31. Who was Jesus referring to? In 2 Cor 4:6 how does God use us to bring light into darkness? As you anticipate the week ahead, where are you most likely to have an opportunity to shine the light of Jesus?

#### **II. His touch brings cleansing: The Leper**

##### **Q4. Read Matthew 8:2-3; Numbers 12:9-12, 2 Kings 5:9-10, 14**

Leprosy is a chronic, infectious disease, spread by skin-to-skin contact, causing skin lesions and nerve damage. In biblical times there was no cure. God uses Leprosy symbolically to represent sin throughout the Bible (Numbers 12:9-12). In 2 Kings chapter 5 Naaman was healed of leprosy by washing in the Jordan River. Jesus didn't have to touch the leper to heal him, but He did. How do you think the leper felt when Jesus reached out to touch him? How do you think the crowd reacted?

##### **Q5. Read Ephesians 4:18-19; James 1:14 -15**

Sin, like leprosy, grows slowly (James 1:14), causes a loss of sensitivity (Ephesians 4:18-19) and leads to death (James 1:15). Has someone reached out to you at a time when you were suffering the effects of sin to bring you God's healing touch? If so, how did they reach you? If you are aware of someone right now who is in need of that healing touch, what is one thing you can say or do that will give him or her hope of healing?

#### **Wrap-Up**

When we need it the most, Jesus is available to touch us and heal us in our greatest need. Like the blind men, we must have faith that Jesus can heal us and open our eyes to see the world more clearly. He is the light of the world and when we follow him He leads us out of darkness. And once He heals our blindness, we can be used to bring his light into the lives of others. His touch is the ultimate cure for our sin. At his touch we are rescued from death and given the promise of new life.

#### **Memory Verse**

... the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4b ESV

#### **Prayer (20 MIN)**

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more notes)* \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** *Ask God to show you someone in need of His touch, and give you the courage to reach out to them.*

