

FIRST THINGS FIRST

One Story

January 25, 2026

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Summary.

A man healed by Jesus is pressured to explain *how* the miracle happened. He can't explain everything, but he refuses to deny what Jesus did. Jesus calls us to be witnesses, not attorneys, and to point people to Who, even when we can't answer every *how*.

Key Scripture Summaries.

John 9:25 | The healed man distinguishes between what he doesn't know and what he does know. His testimony becomes unshakable.

John 9:3-5 | Jesus reframes suffering, shifting the focus from blame and explanation to redemption and revelation.

Acts 1:8 | Jesus commissions His followers to be witnesses empowered by the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:15 | Christians are called to give reasons for hope [in Jesus] with gentleness and respect, not fear or arrogance.

Psalms 107:2 | Redemption naturally leads to testimony; those rescued by God are invited to tell their story.

Start Talking.

1. What's something in everyday life you rely on but couldn't fully explain how it works?
2. Have you ever stayed quiet because you felt unqualified to speak?
3. When someone asks a hard faith question, what emotion usually shows up first (fear, pressure, curiosity, defensiveness, relief)?

Start Thinking.

- In John 9, people keep asking, "*How?*" Why do you think explanations feel so vital to us?
- Jesus shifts the conversation from "who is to blame?" to what God can do. How does that challenge common ways people talk about suffering?
- Why do you think testimony (story) often lands better than explanation (argument)?
- What is the danger of believing we must have every answer before we speak about Jesus?

Start Sharing.

1. Can you relate more to being a "witness" or an "attorney" when it comes to faith? Why?
2. Where do you feel most insecure about sharing your faith (suffering, science, hypocrisy, other religions, or something else)?
3. Have you ever seen someone's personal story impact you more than their logic or arguments?
4. What fear most often keeps you quiet: sounding foolish, saying it wrong, damaging the relationship, or being rejected?

Start Praying.

Jesus, thank You that You don't ask us to explain everything. You ask us to tell the truth about what You've done. Give us courage to speak without fear, humility to say "I don't know," and clarity to always point people to You. Teach us to be witnesses who speak with gentleness, listen with compassion, and trust You to open eyes. Amen.

Start Doing.

- Write your story using this simple pattern: "*I was ..., then Jesus ..., and now ...*"
- Practice it. Say it out loud in under two minutes. Then try it in one minute.
- Adopt a freeing phrase. When you don't know the answer, use: "*That's a great question. Let's find out together.*"
- Pray daily, asking God for one opportunity to share what He's done in your life.
- Take one step outward. Share your story with one safe person this week. Your group counts!