



Sermon Discussion Guide

Blurry Vision - Resisting His Ways - James Junior

1 - 4 - 25

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
 - *Have you ever thought you understood something... and later realized you totally didn't? What changed?*
 - *What's something you didn't "see clearly" until you were older?*
 - *Have you ever missed something obvious that everyone else noticed right away?*
 - *When was the last time your opinion changed because you learned something new?*
 - *Who is someone in your life who could convince you to be or do anything?*
 - *What makes that person so convincing?*

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*

Mark 8:22-38 , Mark 10:46-52

- In Mark 8:22-26, what happens step by step in the healing of the blind man? What is unusual about it?
- In Mark 8:27-30, how do the disciples' answers differ between what "others" say about Jesus and Peter's confession?
- How does Peter respond to Jesus' prediction, and how does Jesus respond back (Mark 8:32-33)?
- According to Mark 8:31-32, what does Jesus say will happen to him, and what specific language does Mark use to describe it?
- In Mark 8:34-38, what words or phrases does Jesus use when describing what it means to follow him?
- *How does the staged healing of the blind man in Mark 8 function as a metaphor for the disciples' understanding at this point in the Gospel?*



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- In Mark 10:46–52, how does Bartimaeus behave before Jesus heals him?
- What does Bartimaeus do immediately after receiving his sight?
- What does Mark emphasize by noting that Bartimaeus follows Jesus “on the way”?

Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what’s wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
 - *What sorts of things can cloud vision of who God really is?*
 - *How does Jesus redefine success in our world? (Mark 8:34-38)*
 - *Why is Peter able to confess Jesus as Messiah yet unable to accept the necessity of the cross? Do you think that is a common struggle today?*
 - *What does Jesus’ rebuke of Peter show us about the difference between God’s purposes and human expectations of power?*

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
 - *Where do we see ourselves more like the disciples—seeing some truth about Jesus but missing the way of the cross?*
 - *What are common “ways of power” that compete with Jesus’ call to deny ourselves? Where do you see the tension between the way of power and the way of the cross in your own life or vocation?*
 - *What might restored vision look like in your daily choices, relationships, or goals?*
 - *How can this group help one another keep seeing Jesus clearly and following him on the way?*



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- *What forms of “partial sight” might be shaping our faith—correct beliefs without costly obedience?*
- *What practices or experiences have helped clarify your vision of who Jesus is and what following him requires?*

Time of Prayer