

Sermon for January 3/4, 2025  
"Blind Spots" Brad Holmes



# SMALL GROUPS

Share Life | Pursue God | Invest In Others

## THREE THINGS TO KNOW

**DON'T MISS THIS.** No matter where your marriage is today—thriving, surviving or somewhere in between—**Re|engage**, a 15-week marriage group, meets you there. This Christ-centered journey explores God's design for marriage and helps you apply biblical truth in real, everyday ways. You'll find a safe, welcoming space to be honest, grow closer and experience God's healing, hope and help for your relationship—whether you're looking to strengthen a healthy marriage or rebuild a hurting one. Join us on Thursday evenings, January 29-May 7, 2026, at the Warehouse on the East Paris Campus. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

**GROUP VALUES.** This month, we focus on **GROW TOGETHER**. God created us to grow in community, not in isolation. The blind man in [John 9](#) needed help navigating the difficult journey to the pool of Siloam. Similarly, we need each other as we take steps of faith—especially when life doesn't make sense. As we begin this new year, how can your group members help one another trust Jesus through the hard and confusing seasons?

**GROW AS A LEADER.** As we start a new year, many group members will have goals and resolutions they're excited about. Create space in your group for people to share what they're hoping for this year, but also remind them that spiritual growth isn't about having everything figured out. The man in John 9 didn't have all the answers—he just kept saying "I don't know" while taking steps to trust Jesus. Help your group embrace the freedom of not having to know everything before taking a step toward God.

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Welcome to our standalone sermon, **BLIND SPOTS**. This week, we explore a powerful story from John 9 where Jesus heals a man born blind.

### ICEBREAKER

What's something you were certain about as a kid that turned out to be completely wrong?

### THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Have someone read [John 9:1-7](#) aloud.

What stands out to you about how Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who sinned?

What details about this healing seem unusual or surprising?

How does the man demonstrate trust in Jesus even before he can see?

### **THIS WEEK'S SERMON**

Pastor Brad Holmes explored three types of blindness in John 9: physical blindness, spiritual blindness and willful blindness. As a group, recall some of the sermon's big ideas and main points.

When something goes wrong in our lives or in the world around us, what is our natural response?

How does focusing on what God might do about suffering rather than who caused it change the way we approach our struggles?

The blind man had to walk a half mile down uneven steps to wash in the pool of Siloam—a journey that would have been uncomfortable and difficult. When has God asked you to trust him through something that was hard or didn't make sense at the time?

Throughout the story, the man keeps saying "I don't know," while the religious leaders keep insisting, "We know." Why is admitting "I don't know" sometimes the most honest and faithful response we can give?

When are you more like the Pharisees than the blind man—thinking you have God figured out or unwilling to consider you might be wrong?

Jesus healed the blind man before the man even knew who Jesus was. Where might God be showing you his power and love right now so you can take a step of trusting him?

The man's faith evolved from not knowing Jesus at all to worshipping him by the end of the chapter. What would it look like for you to take one step closer to Jesus this year, even when you don't have everything figured out?

### **WRAP UP**

As we start this new year, what is one blind spot you're asking God to reveal in your life? How can we pray for you as you seek to trust Jesus more fully?