

Read

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9,

13-17, 34-38

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026



REFLECTION

The blind man's testimony in this week's Gospel unfolds as a powerful narrative of transformation. Blind from birth, he is the recipient of Jesus' miraculous healing. His journey from this point onward reflects our own progression from spiritual blindness to clarity.

It is interesting to note that the blind man does not seek Jesus out for healing, but instead, Jesus, like in last week's Gospel, offers his gift freely. The blind man then becomes actively involved in the story, driving the narrative forward as he comes to discover who Jesus is. After initially referring to Jesus as "the man called Jesus" (Jn 9:11), the blind man's testimony evolves. As the Pharisees press for details, he becomes increasingly assertive, eventually declaring, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see" (Jn 9:25).

In his journey from darkness to light, the blind man not only gains physical sight but also spiritual insight. When Jesus reveals himself as the Son of Man, the blind man's response is one of worship. His testimony, therefore, transcends the physical miracle, culminating in a profound encounter with the Son of God. As we reflect on our own journey to deeper spiritual insights, we pray that we may be witnesses to others so they may see the light of Christ.



ACTION

The blind man's testimony deepens as he comes to understand the source of his healing. Take time to reflect on your own spiritual journey. Are there points where you hesitated to ask God for healing? Are there other turning points that you now recognize as evidence of God's transformative hand? Write a personal testimony, highlighting moments of transformation and encounters with Jesus. Share this testimony with a trusted friend, mentor, or family member.



Read the daily readings each day this week to come to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is.

<https://bible.usccb.org/>

? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ How can you express gratitude to God for all the gifts he has given to you?
- ❖ How has your understanding of Jesus evolved over time?



March 15, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LECTIONARY #31A

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Church celebrates the second of three scrutinies for the elect, preparing them for baptism at the Easter Vigil. The Gospel reading of the healing of the man born blind emphasizes the conversion process of moving from darkness into the light of faith. At the same time, the opposite movement is also depicted: the Pharisees who should have faith refuse to see the truth about Jesus. The teens are invited to reflect on the movements of belief and unbelief in their own lives and to live in the light of faith.

Q FOCUS: *The man born blind moves from unbelief to belief after he encounters Jesus.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

On March 17, the Church celebrates the very well-known, ever-popular, St. Patrick. Patrick was a bishop who was sent as a missionary to help bring Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century. There are many legends about Patrick (like banishing all the snakes from Ireland), but we do know that he worked very hard to share the love of Christ with others. He overcame great opposition and was able to convert many people to the Christian faith.

Church Teaching Connection

"Our lives are sometimes similar to that of the blind man who opened himself to the light, who opened

himself to God, who opened himself to his grace. Sometimes unfortunately they are similar to that of the doctors of the law: from the height of our pride we judge others, and even the Lord! Today, we are invited to open ourselves to the light of Christ in order to bear fruit in our lives, to eliminate unchristian behaviors. . . . We must repent of this, eliminate these behaviors in order to journey well along the way of holiness, which has its origin in baptism" (Pope Francis, Angelus Message, March 30, 2014).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

Gospel

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his

eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

The man born blind does not ask Jesus to heal him, nor does he make any kind of statement of faith about who Jesus is or what he can do. Nevertheless, Jesus sees him and immediately heals him. The grace of healing that Jesus gives is not dependent on our faith, but on his divine love, mercy, and compassion. It isn't until later, after the man is healed, that the Gospel reveals any sign that the blind man is a man of faith.

► What role do the signs of God's actions have in your faith?

► What are things that might cause you to doubt God's actions and presence in the world?

There are two main stories of faith in this Gospel reading. On one hand, we have that of the man born blind. He moves from unbelief to belief, from darkness (blindness) to light (sight). On the other hand, we have the Pharisees, who were figures of religious authority. They should have faith but through their conversation with the man, we see that they are closing themselves off to the truth of who Jesus is. They, unlike the man who can now see, don't want to see who is in their midst.

The blind man's neighbors also show signs of unbelief. They are unsure if the man is the same person who was blind and begged. After all, healings of blindness were not a typical occurrence. They bring him to the Pharisees for further questioning. There, the man born blind proclaims that Jesus is a prophet, because of the great healing that he did. The Pharisees don't believe the man because, as was common in that time period, they thought that most ailments and disabilities were caused by sin, so they didn't trust his words.

► Do we have difficulty believing that people can change? Why or why not?

This Sunday at Mass, we celebrate the second scrutiny for those who are going to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. They have been on a long journey of conversion, moving from unbelief to belief as they come to know and love God. The Church prays for them today, that they may overcome those things that blind them to the faith and instead walk in the light of their faith in Jesus. Similarly, we who are already baptized are also encouraged by this reading and these prayers to remain in the light we live in as children of God and to continually be converted to faith throughout our journey of discipleship.

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 154.

Jesus saw the blind man and addressed his need.

The blind man was not just given the grace of healing but also the gift of faith.

We are encouraged to move from unbelief to belief, from the darkness of sin to the light of living in Christ.

Act on the Word

Eye Has Not Seen

For this activity, you will need several objects for teens to feel, taste, hear, and smell. You will also need a blindfold. It is always good practice to know about any allergies the teens might have, but especially in this activity, because they will be blindfolded and unable to know what they are touching or tasting, it is essential that you check with your group for food or sensory allergies (like gluten, nuts, pollen, animal dander, and so on) and avoid any they might have.

Before the group gathers for this session, the youth minister or catechist should prepare four to eight items that will be guessed by the teens. These items should fall into the categories of touch (like soft, stuffed animals, washcloths, or a rock), smell (like vinegar, honey, or coffee), sound (like a bell, an instrument, or a song), and taste (like an apple, chocolate, or a pretzel). The leader should keep these items secret.

When it is time for the activity, have a desk set up in the middle of the room with two chairs at it, one for the youth minister and one for a volunteer. Explain to the young people that they can volunteer to be blindfolded to guess what item is given to them. In order to figure out the item, the blindfolded person can use all of his or her senses except sight. The rest of the group will watch and offer encouragement. They should only offer hints if the volunteer asks for a hint.

To begin, ask for a volunteer and blindfold that person. Keeping the rest of the items secret, place one item on the desk. The blindfolded teen should try to figure out what the item is. If the person is stumped, he or she can ask yes/no questions, like “Is it edible”

or “Would it be found outside?” If after a few minutes of guessing the teen still hasn’t gotten the correct answer, have him or her make a final guess and then take off the blindfold to see what it was.

Continue the game with several more rounds, asking for a different volunteer each time and using a different object each time. Once there are no more items to guess, ask the young people to reflect on the activity. For those who were blindfolded, how did it feel to rely on other senses and other people for help? Did they trust what their senses and others were telling them? For those who were not blindfolded, ask about the experience of seeing someone struggle and their own ability to offer help (or not). Close the discussion by inviting the young people to think about their faith. We don’t see God the way we see one another, but we do encounter him in many ways throughout our daily lives. How can we become better at recognizing his presence?

Closing Prayer

*In your goodness, O God,
you come into the lives of all those who
are burdened in life.*

*You sent your Son to give sight to the blind
and hope to those who long for your mercy.*

*Grant that we might see with our hearts
and give you praise with our lives.*

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday’s Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.