

Investigating

God's Word...

YEAR FOUR

John

Sunday School Curriculum

Summer Quarter

Lesson Sequence

Summer Quarter

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the ***Investigating God's Word...*** curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	John 1
Week Two	John 2-3
Week Three	John 4:1-5:15
Week Four	John 5:16-6:24
Week Five	John 6:25-7:24
Week Six	John 7:25-8:59
Week Seven	John 9:1-10:21
Week Eight	John 10:22-11:57
Week Nine	John 12:1-13:17
Week Ten	John 13:18-15:17
Week Eleven	John 15:18-17:26
Week Twelve	John 18:1-19:27
Week Thirteen	John 19:28-21:25



Suggested Schedule

Welcome <i>Proverbs 18:15</i>	2-3 min.
Drill Time <i>David</i>	5 min.
W.O.W! <i>Blindness</i>	5 min.
Historical Context <i>Timeline</i>	2-3 min.
Bible Investigation <i>John 9:1-10:21</i>	20-30 min.
Lesson-At-Home <i>John 10:14-15</i>	2-3 min.

Lesson Seven

John 9:1-10:21

Overview

John 9 begins with Jesus seeing a man who was blind since birth. The disciples wanted to know whether this man or his parents sinned to receive such a punishment from God. Jesus teaches them that this man's blindness happened to glorify God. After saying this, Jesus heals the blind man, causing an even greater stir. Some thought that the now "seeing" man was just the blind man's look-a-like. The man protested and said he was the blind man, yet he didn't know where Jesus went. The Pharisees begin an investigation into the healing, claiming that Jesus was a sinner for healing on the Sabbath. They even question the man's parents, who refused to answer out of fear. The once blind man is finally condemned by the Pharisees for putting his faith in Jesus. This causes Jesus to rebuke the Pharisees for their spiritual blindness.

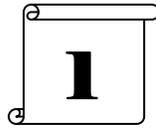
The first section of John 10 contains Christ's teaching on the shepherd and his flock. He uses the shepherding analogy to call Himself the "Good Shepherd" who is all about finding His lost sheep. Jesus also calls Himself the "Gate" for the sheep, showing how one can only enter through Jesus to gain salvation. At these words, the Jews were again divided. Some believe in Jesus and others accuse Him of being demon-possessed!

Preparation

Read and meditate on John 9-10 this week.

Teaching Encouragement

Your reading today gives your children a couple of very practical images in which to see themselves. Show them that every one of them is like the blind man who was blind from birth. They were born without the ability to "see" God, to "see" God's Kingdom or to "see" Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Only when Jesus heals their spiritual blindness can they see God and follow Him. Then, show them that they are lost sheep that need a shepherd. Sheep cannot find their way on their own. Sheep need a shepherd who will protect and guard them. Jesus is the Great Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep. He has one flock, and He loves them all. With the help of God's Spirit, your children can see their need for sight and be obedient sheep who follow the Great Shepherd!



Welcome

Greet the children. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students to study today, read Proverbs 18:15.

¹⁵ The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out.

Say: *As we begin today, I want you to think about something. Everyone in here will hear the Bible lesson we are about to read together. But not everyone will learn from it. According to this proverb, only those who have wise hearts will gain knowledge. Only those who are wise listeners will really learn and hear. It's very sad that some of you will hear but not really learn! Let's stop and ask God for wise hearts that will get knowledge.*



Drill Time

Now, let's move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *What job did David do as a young man before he became king? How did David serve King Saul? What was the name of the Philistine giant that David defeated? Who anointed David to be the king of Israel? Who was David's best friend? Why did Saul try to kill David?*

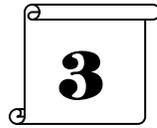
Call on volunteers.

Answers:

1. He was a shepherd.
2. He played the harp for Saul—to calm his nerves.
3. Goliath.
4. Samuel.
5. Jonathan, Saul's son.
6. He was jealous of David, and he knew God was going to make David the next king.

Say: *Shepherd boy David points us to Jesus, the Great Shepherd of His sheep. King David points us to King Jesus, the perfect King of kings and Lord of lords!*

The answers to today's *Drill Time* questions are found in **I Samuel 16-31**.



W.O.W!

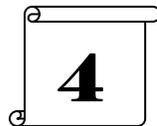
Our *W.O.W!* (*Word of the Week*) this week is **BLINDNESS**. Write it on the board. What is **BLINDNESS**? Allow answers.

Have you ever known someone who is BLIND? Many people lose their ability to see as they get older. Their eyes wear out or a disease causes BLINDNESS. Isn't that sad? Our ability to see is so important, isn't it?

Have you ever known someone who has been BLIND since birth? Can you imagine NEVER being able to see? Life totally changes for people who are BLIND. They need all sorts of help to be able to just live day-to-day.

It is a miracle when BLIND people can be made to see. Jesus has healed BLIND people before, hasn't He? Today, we'll see Jesus healing another BLIND man, teaching us about something we'll call "spiritual BLINDNESS." Spiritual BLINDNESS is when a person cannot see Jesus as God or see the Kingdom of God at all. That's the worst sort of BLINDNESS in all the world!

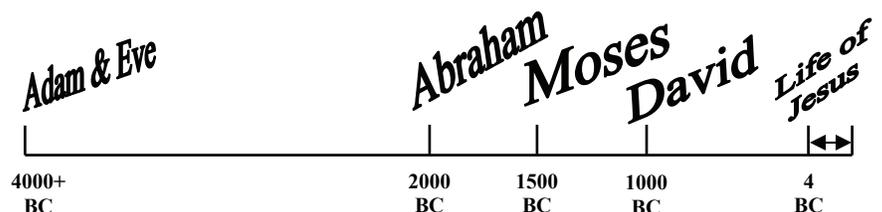
Watch for our Word of the Week as we study together today.



Historical Context

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board to help the students put the lesson in historical context.

A Gospel of John Timeline





Bible Investigation

Have the children open their Bibles to John 9.

Introduction: *Last time, we heard a great debate between Jesus and the Jews. Jesus clearly showed that He is God and that He is the promised Messiah. Yet many of the Jews refused to believe in Jesus. So they argued with Jesus, and even tried to kill Him! Thankfully, some were putting their faith in Jesus. What will happen next in the life of our Savior?*

Let's find out. Read John 9:1-2.

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Discussion: *Now that's an interesting question! Seeing a man who was BLIND from birth caused the disciples to think that someone must have sinned for something this bad to happen. Do you think that too?*

Let's see what Jesus says. Read verses 3-5.

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Discussion: *So why was this man born BLIND? [So that the work of God might be displayed in his life.] What do you think Jesus is about to do? Allow answers. Jesus again says that He is the light of the world. Will He give light to this man's BLINDNESS?*

Let's read. Read verses 6-12.

⁶ Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." ¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. ¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and

then I could see.”¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

Discussion: *Did Jesus heal the BLIND man? [Yes.] Did this man’s neighbors believe that Jesus healed him? [No.] There are more questions to come...*

The Pharisees are now on the scene. Read verses 13-17.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?” So they were divided. ¹⁷ Finally they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

Discussion: *Why didn’t the Pharisees believe this BLIND man could have been healed by a prophet of God? [Since Jesus disobeyed the Sabbath law, he couldn’t be from God!] Yet how could an evil person do a miracle like giving sight to a blind man?*

The debate continues... Read verses 18-25.

¹⁸ The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?” ²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

Discussion: *Why were this man’s parents afraid of telling the Pharisees that Jesus healed their son? [They were afraid of being kicked out of the synagogue.] Did the once BLIND man himself know who Jesus was? [No.] What did he know? [He knew that he was blind, but now can see.] What a great testimony! This man knows the facts: Jesus made him see for the first time. Jesus did the work to open this man’s BLIND eyes!*

Listen to more. Read verses 26-34.

²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?” ²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

Discussion: *Wow! This man really challenged the Pharisees, didn’t he? Had the BLIND man become one of Jesus’ disciples? [Yes.] He even exhorted the Pharisees to follow Jesus too. Why won’t the Pharisees put their faith in Jesus? [Because they are still following the law of Moses.]*

Listen to the end of this chapter. Read verses 35-41.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” ⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

Discussion: *Now we see the BLIND man with his “spiritual” eyes open. Jesus opened his physical eyes so he could see the world around him. Then, Jesus opens this man’s spiritual eyes so he can put his faith in Jesus! Does he believe in Jesus? [Yes.] Do the Pharisees believe in Jesus? [No.] They are spiritually BLIND even though they think they can see. Jesus reprimands them since they should not be so BLIND to the truth!*

Application: *This story shows us a picture of ourselves, boys and girls. We are all born BLIND to Jesus. Only Jesus can open our spiritually BLIND eyes and give us eyes to see and believe. When Jesus opens your spiritual eyes, the only right response is to*

worship God and follow Jesus as His disciple. It is God's grace that opens our BLIND eyes so that we can tell others that Jesus is the light of the world!

Now, Jesus continues in John 10. **Read John 10:1-6.**

¹“I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

Discussion: *Jesus begins to tell the Jews about sheep and their shepherd. What is He trying to tell them?*

Listen. Read verses 7-10.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Application: *Jesus says He is the gate to the sheepfold. The gate is the only way in, and it provides protection for the sheep. Jesus is the only way to heaven! He is the only giver of life. He is the only way to God.*

Listen to what else Jesus says. Read verses 11-18.

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

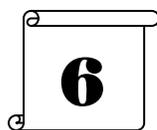
Application: *Jesus calls Himself the “Good Shepherd.” What does a good shepherd do for his sheep? Allow answers. Ultimately, a good shepherd will die to save the lives of his sheep. That’s what Jesus had done for His sheep. He laid down His life for His people. If you are His sheep, He died for you!*

Let’s finish our reading for today. Read verses 19-21.

¹⁹ At these words the Jews were again divided. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?”

²¹ But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

Conclusion: *Again, we end with a division among the people. Some people think that Jesus is crazy and demon-possessed. Others put their faith in Him because they have been set free from their spiritual BLINDNESS. Satan cannot open up anyone’s eyes to the truth. He keeps us BLIND to what is good and pure. Thank God for the Good Shepherd who opens up the eyes and saves the lives of His sheep!*



Lesson-At-Home

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (John 10:14-15) together.

John 10:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

Say: *We just read these incredible words of Jesus. Isn’t it amazing that Jesus knows all of His sheep and has died for all of them? Are you one of Christ’s little lambs?*

Review the verses a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.