

Scripture as Story:

Instead of one person reading this text, we invite you to animate the Word of God using people from your congregation. This readers theater is based on John 9, NRSV. You will need: Narrator, Jesus, disciples, man born blind, up to five neighbors, up to four Pharisees, mother, and father.

Narrator: As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

Disciples: Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus: Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world. (*Bends to scoop up dirt, spits (audibly!), kneads his hands, and spreads them over blind man's face. Says to him*) Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.

Narrator: Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar raised questions.

Neighbor 1: Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?

Neighbors 2 & 3: (nodding) It is he.

Neighbors 4 & 5: (shaking their heads) No, but it is someone like him.

The man: (repeats over and over) I AM THE MAN.

Neighbors: (repeat at least three times) Then how were you eyes opened?

The man: The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.

Neighbors: Where is he?

The man: I do not know.

Narrator: The neighbors brought the man who had formerly been blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask the man how he had received his sight.

The man: He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see. (Steps aside or turns his back to the congregation.)

Pharisee 1: This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.

Pharisee 2: How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?

Pharisee 3: (to man) What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.

The man: He is a prophet.

Narrator: People would not believe that he had been blind until they called his parents.

Pharisee 4: Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he see now?

Mother: We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he now sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes.

Father: Ask him, he is of age. He will speak for himself.

Narrator: So for the second time they called the man who had been blind.

Pharisee 2: Give glory to God!

Pharisee 1: We know that this man is a sinner.

The man: I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

Pharisee 3: What did he do to you?

Pharisee 4: (jumps in on last word of Pharisee 3) How did he open your eyes?

The man: I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?

Pharisees: (tumbling into one another's words)

1: You are his disciple.

2: We are disciples of Moses.

3: We know that God has spoken to Moses.

4: As for this man, we do not know where he comes from.

The man: Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

Pharisee 1: You were born entirely in sin...

Pharisee 2: ...and are you trying to teach us???

The man: (turns back to congregation once again)

Narrator: Jesus heard that they had driven the man out, and when he found him, he said to him:

Jesus: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

The man: (turns toward congregation) And who is he, sir? Tell me, that I may believe in him.

Jesus: You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.

The man: Lord, I believe.

Jesus: I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.

Narrator: Some of the Pharisees near him heard this.

Pharisee 3: Surely we are not blind...

Pharisee 4: ...are we?

Jesus: If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see," your sin remains.