

John 9:30 – 10:8

New American Standard Version

³⁰ The man answered and said to them, “Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. ³² Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?” So they put him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” ³⁸ And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him. ³⁹ And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains. ^{10:1} Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”

⁶ This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

*From suggestions on the back page add your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.***

Observation (What does it say?):

Underline:

What the man said to the Pharisees

What the man said to Jesus

What Jesus said to the man

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

When the man said “I believe” (v. 38) what was he believing? What had he already declared?

Do you think the Pharisees believed anything that the man believed (v. 30-33)? How did this affect their view of Jesus?

How did the man’s logic (v. 33) compare with the Pharisees’ logic (v. 16, in an earlier part)?

Paraphrase v. 39 and 41 without the words “see” or “blind.” What was Jesus saying about His mission?

Why did Jesus change His symbolism from blindness to shepherding? If we ignore the chapter break, do you think this is a continuous narrative? Or does it sound like these are two separate stories John put into his Gospel? What difference might that make in understanding both passages (John 9 and John 10)?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

What do you mean when you say, “I believe”?
What details would you give (like the man to the Pharisees) in just a few words?

How is your “seeing”? What areas do you not see well in? Where would you like clearer vision from Jesus?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation

(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage (repetition, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect, unusual words, etc.)? Mark the passage (underline, circles, etc.) to help bring out the writer's thought process.

- Who are the people involved?
- What is the action taking place?
- What type of literature is the passage (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are there any unusual words used?
- Is there any symbolic or figurative language used?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Is there any repetition of words or ideas?
- Are there comparisons or contrasts?
- Are there indications of cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Does the passage contain any explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation

(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts of the passage that would help you **interpret** the writer's meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application

(What does it mean for me?)

How does the writer's meaning relate to your life? What specific application might the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

If there is ever a blurring of the process to the extent that the various phases [Observation, Interpretation, Application] of study become indistinguishable, then eisegesis will inevitably result.

Robert Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*