

- Belief may inform us about Jesus, but **faith** in Jesus produces **obedience** that forms us into disciples of Jesus.

31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. John 8:31

Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. “If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. John 8:31 (MSG)

58 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I am!” 59 At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple. John 8:58-59

1 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. 2 “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” John 9:1-2

6 Then he (*Jesus*) spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and spread the mud over the blind man’s eyes. 7 He told him, “Go wash yourself in the pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “sent”). So the man went and washed and came back seeing! John 9:6-7

16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man Jesus is not from God, for he is working on the Sabbath.” Others said, “But how could an ordinary sinner do such miraculous signs?” So there was a deep division of opinion among them. John 9:16

35 When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” 36 The man answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.” 37 “You have seen him,” Jesus said, “and he is speaking to you!” 38 “Yes, Lord, I believe!” the man said. And he worshiped Jesus. 39 Then Jesus told him, “I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.” John 9:35-39

- Blindness is a **heart** condition.

17 ...Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. 18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. Ephesians 4:17-18

“They loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.” John 3:19

Their eyes are blinded, their hearts are hardened, So that they wouldn’t see with their eyes and perceive with their hearts, And turn to me, God, so I could heal them. John 12:40

#### Some causes of Spiritual blindness:

- Satan blinds the minds of people from receiving the **truth**.

He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?” Acts 9:4

- We allow **compromise** in our lives.

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness. Isaiah 5:20

- God’s Word is not a **standard** that we live by.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path Psalm 119:105

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16

- We live with an awareness of Jesus, but we live without the **presence** and **power** of Jesus.

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. John 5:39–40

- We don’t take seriously the **evil** we’re exposed to.

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. Matthew 6:22–23

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Ephesians 5:11

#### Ways to prevent spiritual blindness:

- Stay **humble** before God.
- Watch yourself from allowing **compromise**.
- Start living in **obedience**.
- Stay **dependent** on Jesus.

## VISION:

## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

#### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

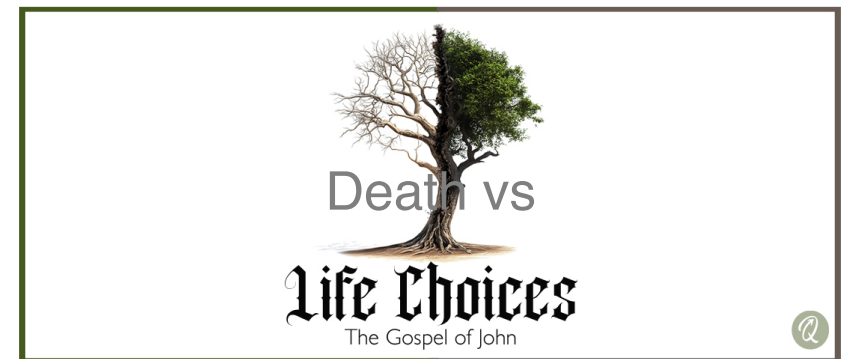
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Why do you think it’s possible to believe in Jesus intellectually but resist obeying Him practically?
- How has obedience (or lack of it) shaped your spiritual growth more than information alone?
- What are some signs that a heart might be hardening even while someone remains religious?
- Scripture says Satan blinds minds from receiving truth (2 Corinthians 4:4). What lies do you think are most effective in blinding people today, including Christians?
- Hebrews 3:15 warns against hardening our hearts. What practices or attitudes help keep our hearts soft toward God?
- Isaiah 5:20 speaks of calling evil good and good evil. Where do you see this happening culturally—and how does it affect our spiritual vision?
- How does compromise slowly shape what we tolerate, excuse, or normalize in our lives?
- What does it look like to live with an awareness of Jesus but without depending on His presence and power?
- Why do you think we often underestimate the impact of the evil we’re exposed to—media, habits, influences—on our spiritual sight?
- Why is humility essential for maintaining spiritual clarity and sensitivity to God?
- What safeguards can help us recognize compromise before it dulls our spiritual vision?
- How does obedience protect us from spiritual blindness rather than restrict our freedom?
- What does daily dependence on Jesus practically look like in your work, relationships, and private life?

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Sunday, January 11th, 2026