

John 9: 1-5

Topic: a) Why do bad things happen to us? (*Someone else's sin...our sin...sometimes we don't know why*)

a) One day Elroy walked out of his house. Hiding behind the bushes was a really mean kid named Rosco. As soon as Rosco saw Randy walking down the sidewalk in front of his house, he picked up a rock, threw it and hit Elroy right in the head.

- Why did this bad thing happen to Elroy?
- Sometimes bad things happen because of mean people.

a) Elroy walked to the park. He was walking along when he saw a sign that said, "Do not throw rocks in the air." He thought this was a strange sign especially since the ground was covered with rocks. Elroy picked up one of the rocks and held it in his hand. He looked around and lightly tossed the rock with his hand and caught it when it came back down. He read the sign again, looked around and threw the rock up in the air as hard as he could. He stood there smiling for a minute until the rock came back down and hit him in the head.

- Why did this bad thing happen to Elroy?
- Sometimes when bad things happen, it's our own fault.

a) Elroy was walking home. It was a beautiful day and he was smiling. Suddenly a rock fell out of the sky and hit him on the head. Elroy looked around. There was no one there who threw the rock and he didn't throw it. Elroy's head hurt and he didn't understand what was going on.

- Why did this bad thing happen to Elroy? (We don't know)
- Sometimes bad things happen and we don't know why they do.
- Even when we don't know why, we trust Jesus to take care of us.
- Mr 5:36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."

Topic: b) Why was this man born blind?

b) Once there was a giant eagle who took care of a bunch of little birds. He would find food then swoop down out of the air and give it them. This eagle was so large and powerful that whenever he swooped down to give them their food the little birds would fly away because they were afraid of him. There was one little bird who was born with only one wing. He couldn't fly. All he could do was hop around on the ground. One day the eagle swooped down with some food. The little birds all flew away scared. The little bird with only one wing was scared too but he couldn't fly away. The giant eagle stood over him. The little bird didn't know what the eagle

was going to do. Suddenly the giant eagle picked the little bird up and put him on his back. The eagle took off and soared up in the air. That day, the little bird with one wing flew higher than any of the other birds. When the other birds saw how nice the eagle was to the little bird, they weren't afraid of him anymore.

- Which one of the birds was closest to the eagle?
- Did anything good come out of this bird only having one wing?
- Some people are born with handicaps. These people can be the closest to God.

John 9: 6-7

Topic: a) Obedience is the door to the glory of God.

a) Can you think of any reasons why the blind man would not have obeyed Jesus?

- It didn't make any sense.
- "The pool is a long way off and I'm blind.
- "People are going to think I'm weird walking around with mud on my eyes."
- Why can't I just wipe it off right here?
- Jesus healed other people just by saying a word. Why do I have to go through all this?
- It's impossible that washing can cure blindness.

a) Any reasons why he should obey Jesus?

- Was he glad he did?
- If we obey God will we be glad?

a) Matthew 14: 26-33...Was Peter glad he got out of the boat? (Were there any reasons why he shouldn't have?)

a) Exodus 17: 2-7...Was Moses glad he struck the rock? (Any reasons why he shouldn't have?)

a) 1Samuel 17....Was David glad he fought the giant? (Any reasons why he shouldn't have? Any reasons why he should have?)

a) 2Kings 5....Was Naaman glad he did what the prophet told him? (Any reasons not to?)

a) 1Kings 17: 9-16...Was the widow glad she did what Elijah said? (Any reason not to?)

a) John 2: 3-10...Were the servants at the wedding feast glad they did what Jesus said? (Any reasons not to?)

- There will always be reasons not to obey God
- You will always be glad when you do.

John 9: 8-9

Topic: a) People who follow Jesus don't do the same old things.

a) Luke 19: 1-10....People must have been wondering, "What happened to Zacchaeus?"

a) Deep in the forest where all the animals live, there was a little worm named Creeper. The animals called him Creeper because that's what he did. All he could do was creep along the ground searching for food in the dirt. Creeper didn't have many friends and some of the mean animals would sometimes threaten to step on him. One day creeper felt very sleepy. Before he went to sleep he spun what looked like a thick white spider's web. Then Creeper crawled inside and went to sleep. When he awoke, he crawled out of his cocoon and was very surprised. He had changed. He was no longer a little worm crawling in the dirt. He was bigger and he had these beautiful wings. He spread his wings and flew high above the forest. The other animals saw him sailing high above the trees. "Look!" they yelled, "It's the Creeper!" Some of the other animals said, "No way! That beautiful creature can't be the Creeper!"

- Who changed the Creeper?
- When a person is born again they become a new creature.

a) There are five life forms ... plants, animals, people, angels and children of God.

- Animals can't become people but if you were an animal and became a person, would you be doing the same things and acting the same way as when you were an animal?
- You are the only one who can become a new life form. You can become a child of God
- Should children of God be acting like people who don't know God?

a) Once there was a bully named Ron. Whenever the kids were playing and they saw Ron coming they knew there would be trouble. Ron was always picking on kids who were smaller than he. He would cause trouble wherever he was. One day someone invited Ron to church. At church Ron heard about Jesus. He heard how much Jesus loved him and that day Ron decided he wanted to be with Jesus. Ron became a Christian. The next day the kids were playing, they looked up and saw Ron coming down the street. "Oh no, here comes Ron!" they cried. But this time something was different. Ron didn't push anyone around, he didn't cause trouble. He was nice! He played with the kids and helped the kids who were smaller than he. Every day Ron seemed to change more and more. He got nicer and nicer. He became more and more like Jesus. People would see Ron and say, "Is that the same kid?" Others would say, "Nah, it can't be."

- What happened to Ron?

a) Romans 6: 1-2.... 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?
2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

a) Once there was a group of people known as the Mud People. They were called the Mud People because they live next to a big pit that was filled with mud and they loved to jump into it. It was fun for a moment but the problem was that these people never took a bath. So they would

walk around all day covered in dried mud. They smelled. And they sometimes bugs would land on them and get stuck in the mud so they would be covered with dried mud and dead bugs. One day a man came to where the Mud People lived. He drove a truck that had a big tank of water on the back of it. He jumped off his truck and yelled, “Who wants to be clean?” One boy came forward. The man sprayed the boy with a hose and washed all the mud and dead bugs off him. The boy never felt better in his life. It was great to have all that yuck off him. The first thing he did to celebrate was jump back into the mud pit. Then he would go to the man, get cleaned off, feel great and jump back in the mud. He did this until one day the man got in his truck and left, leaving the boy covered with mud and dead bugs.

- Do you think this boy really wants to be clean? How do you know?
- When we sin we can always come to Jesus to be made clean.
- Does the person who keeps sinning on purpose because they love doing bad things really want to be clean?

John 9: 10-12

Topic: How were your eyes opened?

a) What did Jesus do?

a) Luke 23: 39-43...The thief on the cross.

- When people get to heaven and see him there they might ask him, “How did you get here? You were really bad!”
- What would he say?

a) Jenny sits next to Benny in school. The problem is that Benny is always talking. When Jenny wants to listen to what the teacher is saying, Benny starts talking to her. When she’s trying to do her work at her desk, Benny will start talking to her. One day the teacher gave the kids some time to get their homework done. Jenny was busy working on a math problem. Benny kept talking to her. She told him that she had to get this problem done but he wouldn’t stop talking. Finally Jenny got so frustrated that she put her pencil down and yelled, “Benny shut up!!!” As soon as she said it, she was sorry. Benny looked sad and Jenny felt terrible. The first thing Jenny did was pray and ask Jesus to forgive her and to help her to be nicer. Then she told Benny she was sorry. Benny replied, “You did a sin! Now you can’t go to heaven!” Jenny said, “That’s not true. I am going to heaven.”

- How does she know?

Topic: b) He told me what to do.

b) What did He tell the blind man to do?

b) Luke 17: 12-19....Jesus tells ten lepers what to do.

b) There was a girl who was on a long journey home. The problem was that in order to get home she had to pass through the valley of the rock throwers. The rock throwers were a mean bunch who hid and waited until someone dare walk through their valley. Then they would jump out and throw big rocks at them. No one had ever gotten through the valley of the rock throwers without getting hit in the head with a big rock. At the edge of the valley lived an old man. The girl stopped at his house to see if he knew any way to get through the valley of the rock throwers. The man said he did but the girl would have to do everything he said. She agreed and together they started down the valley. As they were walking the old man would yell out, "Duck!!" The girl heard him and obeyed. All through the valley the old man would give directions and the girl would follow them. Finally they made it through the valley. Behind them they could hear the rock throwers yelling angrily at her because she was the only one ever to make it through their valley.

- How did she get through the valley of the rock throwers? (The old man told her what to do and she obeyed.)
- In real life, how do we get through our lives? (God tells us what to do and we obey)

John 9: 13-16

Topic: a) Is it rules or mercy?

a) The Sabbath was a day that God gave the people to rest, take a day off from work, spend time with Him and get blessed. It was like a holiday. The people made it a rule not a blessing. They said you cannot do anything on the Sabbath (not even have fun) and if you do it's a sin and God will be angry with you.

- Which is better...Gods way or the people's way?

a) Mark 3:1-6....Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath.

a) John 8: 1-12....the adulterous woman

- How did Jesus treat her...? Rules or mercy?

John 9: 17- 23

Topic: a) How can this be true? (Because God says so.)

a) Cindy was playing in her driveway. She had a whole bag of Popsicle sticks and glue. She was gluing the sticks together and building a house for her dolls. It took a long time and it was really hard but Mary finished. She sat in the driveway, put the dolls in their new house and played happily. There was a boy who lived a few houses down from Cindy His name was Seth. Seth was out riding his bike. He pulled into Cindy's driveway and saw Cindy playing with the little house. All of a sudden Seth rode up the driveway real fast. He saw the toothpick house that Cindy was playing with and ran right over it on purpose. For some reason Seth thought this would be fun. He was wrong. It wasn't. The house was broken and Cindy was crying. Seth knew he was in trouble and peddled home as fast as he could. He didn't feel so good. He felt

bad for what he had done and he really didn't mean to make Cindy cry. He told his mom what he had done. She told him that he should go back to Cindy's house and tell her he's sorry. That was the last thing he wanted to do. What if her mom yelled at him? His mom told him he would only feel worse if he didn't. Seth got on his bike and peddled towards Cindy's. He felt scared the whole way. He pulled into the driveway and saw Cindy picking up the Popsicle sticks. Seth walked up to her. "Cindy" he said, "I'm sorry I broke your house and made you cry." Cindy looked up at Seth. "Seth that was a mean thing you did. I was really mad but I forgive you." Seth couldn't believe that Cindy would forgive him. "You forgive me?" asked Seth. "Yes" said Cindy, "Jesus has forgiven me for all the bad things that I've done and I know that he wants me to forgive you. Jesus took away all my bad feelings and I forgive you." "Cindy" asked Seth, "Is Jesus really that nice?" Cindy smiled at Seth and said, "Yes He is." Cindy's mom looked out of the kitchen window and smiled. There in the driveway were Seth and Cindy. They were building the little house all over again...together.

John 9: 24-25

Topic: a) What is the one thing you know for sure?

a) Timmy was three years old. He didn't know very much. He didn't know how to tie his shoes yet every morning his mom would help him put them on and she would tie them for him. He didn't know how to tell time but his mom and dad got him every place he had to go on time. If he got a new toy that had to be put together, Timmy didn't know how to do it. His dad would put it together for him and show him how to work the toy. He didn't know how to ride a bike. His dad would put him on the bike and run along behind holding Timmy and the bike up. Timmy didn't know how to swim but his dad would always catch him and hold him every time Timmy jumped into the pool. Timmy didn't know how to button his pajamas but every night his mom and dad would help him get ready for bed. They would tuck him in, read him a story, pray with him and kiss him good night.

- Timmy didn't know anything but there was one thing he knew for sure. (He knew that his parents loved him.)
- I hope you know one thing for sure.

a) Job... He didn't know why all these bad things happened to him.

- But there was one thing he did know...."I know my redeemer lives!"

John 9: 26-34

Topic: a) Rejoice in the Lord alone.

a) What did Jesus do that made this man so happy?

a) Luke 10: 19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

a) Bobby woke up. It was a summer morning. Already it was hot. He lay in bed and smiled because there were some things he was going to do that day. First he was going to take a shower to cool off. He also knew that his mom had bought him a popsicle that was waiting for him in the freezer. His mom also told him that she was going to take him to the mall to buy some new shorts. Then the whole family was going to go to the water park. This water park had the tallest water slide in the world. It was going to be a good day.

- Bobby was looking forward to all these things. Which one do you think made him the happiest?
- Do you have anything to look forwards to? (The best thing...heaven!)
- Who brings you there?

a) Once there was a dog wandering around in the woods. He found something that made him more than happy. He found a huge dinosaur bone. Now dogs love bones and this was the ultimate bone. The dog looked at the dinosaur bone. He was so filled with happiness that he exploded. Someone walking in the woods picked up all the dog pieces, brought them to a vet and the vet sewed the dog back together again. The dog ran out of the vets and into the woods. There was that dinosaur bone. The dog was so filled with happiness again that he exploded again. Someone else found the dog pieces, brought them to the vets and the vet sewed the dog back together again. The dog ran out and back to the woods. When he saw the dinosaur bone he...you guessed it, he exploded again!

- What does this dog need to keep in all this happiness? (a new stronger body)
- When we get to heaven God will give us new bodies because if these bodies we have now went to heaven they couldn't hold all the happiness and would explode.

John 9: 35-38

Topic: a) Do you believe enough to follow?

a) Mark 1: 16-20...The apostles leave everything to follow Jesus.

- Why would they do that ?
- Do you think they believed that Jesus is who He says He is?
- How can you tell?
- Who does Jesus say He is?

John 9: 39-41

Topic: a) Seeing and blindness.

a) Once there were people living in a land of darkness. They couldn't see where they were going so they were always tripping over themselves and each other. A lot of them were getting hurt because they were walking in the darkness. Can you blame them for all the tripping and hurting? (No because darkness was all there was) Then one day a man came to this place with a big bag. Inside this bag were flashlights. Some of the people took a flashlight and some didn't. Those who didn't take a flashlight... can they still not be blamed for tripping and hurting? (No because they refused the light)

- Jesus is the light of the world. Once Jesus came, people had a choice....darkness or light...sin or life.