

Life Group Leader Notes

May 12, 2024

Seven ways the devil blinds people.

1. Blinds to God's love.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3: 16

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15: 13

Discussion: *When did you see God as saving you, rather than condemning you?*

2. Blinds to God's goodness.

Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Psalms 34:

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." ²⁰ But, he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

Exodus: 33: 18-23

The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the Lord was filled with the cloud.

2 Chronicles 5: 13

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalms 23

Discussion: *What dark valley are you going through now?*

3. Blinds to consequences of sin.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in ^[a]Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6: 23

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6: 7-9

When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people's hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong.

Ecclesiastes 8: 11

4. Blinds to the reality of hell.

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25: 41

5. Blinds to the way of heaven.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14: 6

Discussion: How would you respond to someone who says there are many ways to God?

6. Blinds to the need for salvation.

His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand. 'This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. Luke 18: 9-14

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. John 3: 3

Discussion: What did it take, in your life, to need a Savior?

7. Blinds to the power of the Gospel.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Romans 1: 16

Lord, give us boldness. Let us be a people who shout from the rooftops "Jesus Saves".