John 9:24-34 Study Hints for Discussion

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are "hints" a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week's Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. How did the Pharisees expect this man to give glory to God? Did he? How do we give glory to God?

Hopefully, they expected him to tell them the truth about Jesus. Probably, they wanted him to tell them what they wanted to hear and tell lies about Jesus. He did glorify God by telling the Pharisees the truth about Jesus up to the level of his understanding, for his faith in Jesus was a growing faith and he would soon learn more about Jesus. We glorify God when we tell the truth about Jesus (the Son of God), the truth about our Heavenly Father, and the truth about the Holy Spirit as they have revealed themselves in the Bible. As disciples of Jesus, we also tell others how God has worked in our lives. We give glory to God when we worship God and obey God's will.

2. How did the Pharisees know Jesus was a sinner?

Jesus was not a sinner. Jesus always said and did what was pleasing to His Father. They slandered Jesus by calling Jesus a sinner, because Jesus would not obey them and their manmade additions to the Law of God that prevented people from loving God and others as God intends.

3. How did the man challenge the Pharisees when they kept asking his questions? What does his answer tell you about the man?

He told them straightforwardly that they would not listen to the truths he told them. So, why did they want to hear him speak again? He challenged them with the question, "Do you also want to become His disciples?" He was a man of courage and integrity to keep telling them the truth knowing they would punish him for being honest.

4. What did the Pharisees accuse the man of being? What did they say they were?

They accused the man of being a disciple of Jesus. They said they were disciples of Moses.

5. Who did the man say God listens to? How did the Pharisees answer him?

God listens to the person who worships God and obeys God's will. He said Jesus was from God because Jesus healed him. They drove him out of the synagogue as punishment for telling them the truth about Jesus; just as they would eventually kill Jesus for telling them the truth about His Father and himself. The Pharisees continued to demonstrate that Jesus was right to tell them that their father was the devil, for they refused to turn from following the devil to follow God and do God's will. If they had listened to the man and to Jesus, they would have repented and turned back to God by becoming a disciple of Jesus.

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