



# All Christians' Fellowship International

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## *Bible Study Outline*

Study to show “The Way of True life,”

**TOPIC:** Disability and the Goodness of God

**TEXT:** *John 9:1-7*

**Instructions:** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** The Discovery Channel program was hard to watch. A young girl had been born with deforming tumors on her face. Her family had few resources, and the doctors in her country had no remedies. Finally, her situation came to the attention of specialists in the United States. The doctors performed more than a dozen surgeries in an attempt to give her a more normal appearance. Her face looked much better after the operations but still prompted most people to look away. It made me wonder why God allows such afflictions to come on someone so young.

As Jesus and his disciples walked in Jerusalem one day, they came upon a man who had been born blind. The man's condition prompted a theological discussion among the disciples. Jesus, however, was moved with compassion. Read John 9:1-7.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What thoughts about God go through your mind when you see a person who is mentally challenged or physically disabled?
2. What conditions in other human beings cause you to question God's power or God's goodness? How do you usually resolve those questions?
3. What view of sin and suffering lies behind the disciples' question in verse 2? How would you have responded to their question?

4. What does Jesus' answer reveal about how he views the man's situation? Does Jesus's answer in verse 3 justify why an innocent person should suffer?
5. Does Jesus mean that every human disability or deformity can become an opportunity for God to work, or was he referring only to this specific situation? Explain your answer.
6. How might the work of God be displayed in such circumstances even if the person is not made whole or healed?
7. Why does Jesus make mud and smear it on the man's eyes and send him to a different location? Why not just instantly heal the man? Explain your thoughts.
8. If situations of disability do not always arise from specific sins, how can we explain their presence in our world? Read (Genesis 1:27 and 31). Explain your thoughts.
9. In Exodus 4:11 God says this to Moses: "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" Can God be good and still make that statement. Explain your answer.
10. Based on what we've learned in this study, what can you say to the parents of a Down syndrome child or to a girl born with a deformed face about God's involvement in their condition?
11. Can we have confidence in God's goodness all the time? Can we respond like Jesus did to people God brings across your path who are disabled or who suffer from some difficult deformity with a clear conscience?