
Don't just hear the Word—live it! Read the focus passage, then dig into the guide independently or with a small group.

SERIES: I'm Him

MESSAGE TITLE: It's Messy

MESSAGE OVERVIEW: Difficult circumstances tempt us to believe in lies about ourselves and God. But no matter where we are, God is working to bring good out of the bad for those who love Him. Hardships are opportunities for growth that should draw us deeper into a personal relationship with the God who loves us.

FOCUS PASSAGE: John 9:1-41

BREAKING IT DOWN:

1. Sometimes, in the middle of a struggle, we think we're being punished. Or that things will always be the same; our situations will never improve. But Jesus dismantles these lies for us. Have you entertained either idea? Where has that thinking led you? By contrast, can you look back on hard times and see how God had been working in them?
2. Suffering can simply be an effect of the broken world we live in. Other times, we participate in its brokenness. The reality is that choosing sin separates us from God and incurs consequences, but this does not equate to punishment.
3. Read Romans 8:28. What does it teach about our suffering? When and to whom does this verse apply?
4. There are different perspectives on why Jesus healed the way he did in this passage. Some scholars say it was to expose God's purpose for the Sabbath, which religion had twisted. Or maybe it's to show that God can use anything to accomplish His purposes. Still, others think it points to the cross; the intimacy in relationship that He desires with each of us. Maybe it's to show us that sometimes, we have to walk through less-than-ideal circumstances to experience his blessing. Whatever God's reasoning, we can trust Him to use our suffering and see us through.
5. When this man was found, miraculously able to see, some minimized it with empty debates. His parents, fearing for their own good standing, shunned him. The religious leaders criticized, judged him, and threw him out of the Temple. But Jesus knew right where He was. He found him and revealed Himself to the man as the Messiah.

WAYS TO LIVE THE MESSAGE THIS WEEK:

Jesus sees you. Whatever you are in the middle of, don't lose hope. He is working in the darkest moments. If you belong to Jesus, your story does not end with suffering and death.

