

Searching for Next Step 1of2

Series on Following God's Schedule

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What We Will Learn

- God's schedule as a sequence of steps/tasks
- End of a step defines conditions for next step
- Irrespective of perceived success or failure
- End of a task could open several options
 - Options that lead to the right path
 - Options that lead astray
- Christ teaching and example from David
 - Christ: Interactions with a man born blind
 - David: Events following breakup with Saul

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Christ's Teaching Working with God in Increments

- Receive God's guidance
- Complete task according to guidance
- Outcome provides guidance for next task
- Interactions with man born blind
- John 9:1–39 [Selections read in session]

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Interactions with Man Born Blind

- Task 1: Christ sends man to wash in a pool
- Man obeyed and completed task by faith
- Gained sight
- Task ends with miracle
- Provides conditions for start of Task 2 as man's neighbors questioned him
- John 9:1–8

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John 9 (NIV)

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.

2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

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John 9 (NIV)

4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes.

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John 9 (NIV)

7 “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”

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Interactions with Man Born Blind

- Task 2: Man explains his sight to neighbors
- Neighbors were confused
- Some believed him but others did not
- They referred man to the Pharisees
- Provides conditions for start of Task 3 as man confronted Pharisees boldly and with clarity
- John 9:8–13

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John 9 (NIV)

8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”

9 Some claimed that he was.
Others said, “No, he only looks like him.”
But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

10 “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

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John 9 (NIV)

11 He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

12 “Where is this man?” they asked him.
“I don’t know,” he said.

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.

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Interactions with Man Born Blind

- Task 3: Man confronts Pharisees boldly and explained the miracle to them
 - Jesus gave him sight
 - Performed the miracle because he is of God
- Man completed task
- Was expelled from the synagogue
- Next task not described in the account
- John 9:13–34 [30–34 read in session]

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John 9 (NIV)

30 The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.

31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will.

32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind.

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John 9 (NIV)

33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

34 To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

- Man was transformed into a powerful defender of the gospel in three simple and progressive steps

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Teaching with Man Born Blind Simple and Illustrative

- Task 1→Miracle→Task 2→Miracle→Task 3→Miracle
- Often, end of one task appears to open several options for next task
- Some options lead to the right path
- Others lead astray
- David’s case provides good example

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End of Part 1 of 2

Part 1
Christ’s Teaching
Interactions with Man Born Blind

Part 2
David Searches for Next Path
After Breakup with Saul

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