

Small Group Discussion Questions

Lent affords us the opportunity to consider how we will encounter Jesus ourselves

We can our engage our senses in the gospels. This week we look and hope to SEE him.

*How can engaging our senses help us understand things in a new or different way?

Sometimes Jesus is hard to see

We aren't necessarily unwilling to see or don't care; it's just that he is hard to see clearly.

*When has Jesus been hard to see even when you are walking with him?

*What part do our own expectations play in our difficulties seeing Jesus?

Read and discuss Mark 8:22-26 (NTE)

²² They arrived at Bethsaida. A blind man was brought to Jesus, and they begged him to touch him. ²³ He took his hand, led him off outside the village, and put spittle on his eyes. Then he laid his hands on him, and asked, 'Can you see anything?'

²⁴ 'I can see people,' said the man, peering around, 'but they look like trees walking about.'

²⁵ Then Jesus laid his hands on him once more. This time he looked hard, and his sight came back: he could see everything clearly. ²⁶ Jesus sent him back home.

'Don't even go into the village,' he said.

*What is this passage saying to you?

*What part does the sense of sight play here?

Jesus never gives up on those who struggle to see

Our hope is that one day we will see him fully, face to face.

*What are some limitations on our perspectives of Jesus?

*What encouragement does this hope for a second stage of sight bring to you?

*How part does faith play when we struggle to see clearly?

Jesus longs for you to see him

*Where is it, right now, that you cannot see Jesus?

*Where might he be calling you to see him, even if only by faith?

*What was your experience with the Visio Divina practice? How did engaging your sense of sight help you to encounter Jesus?

For more on Visio Divina <https://www.upperroom.org/resources/visio-divina>

