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A sample of the *Christ Plus Nothing* curriculum begins on the following page.

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**LEARN: Overview**

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit [www.B-B-T.org](http://www.B-B-T.org).

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**Curriculum: The *BBT 1-2-3™* Format**

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



1 Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



2 Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



3 Recap – Encourages community and application

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**LIVE: Sample *Christ Plus Nothing*, a study in Galatians**

This volume of BBT Curriculum asks you to be open to Christ – to open your eyes, hearts, minds and ears to the work, power, and glory of Christ Jesus.

1. **Open Eyes**
2. **Open Hearts**
3. **Open Minds**
4. **Open Ears**

No book is needed.

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**LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study**

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)

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## PRAYERS



## LEARN

**Seeing is Believing**

It's amazing the places where people think they see images of Jesus. Just search the internet and you will find all kinds of pictures of Jesus sightings: a banana peel, a water stain, a ketchup lid, the bottom of a frying pan. It's interesting when people see Jesus where He isn't. But it's tragic when we don't see Jesus when He's right before our eyes as Jesus must be seen to be believed.

**Action & Adventure**

Mark wrote his gospel as a sort of action adventure, so people could see Jesus for who He is. Not much talk except short, punchy parables. We see grace course through the limbs of a paralyzed man who walks home. We see Jesus rout a regiment of demons torturing a man. We see Jesus wake a little girl from death as though naptime were over. We see Him feed thousands from a meager 5 loaves and 2 fish, leaving 12 times more leftover. He walks on wind-whipped water before our eyes and gives a deaf man hearing and speech. It's enough to make your head spin! [Mark 7:37](#) says, "People were overwhelmed with amazement. 'He has done everything well,' they said." Yet, despite witnessing all those miracles, people didn't see the point.

Miracles are jaw dropping and leave many wishing to see them repeated. Jesus did just that. He fed 5,000 mostly Jewish people in Galilee with five loaves and two fish and had twelve baskets left over. Shortly after, Jesus feeds 4,000 mostly Gentiles with seven loaves "and a few fish" and had seven baskets left over. Yet those closest to Him, and present to witness both miracles, could not truly see. What is this all about?



## LIVE

**Discussion questions:** Read the text and scriptures below, and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [Mark 6:30-44](#) and [8:1-10](#). What messages or lessons can you glean from these miracles?
2. Read [Mark 8:11-21](#). What pharisaical attitudes or other blindness keep you from seeing Jesus?
3. Read [Mark 8:22-30](#). What similarities are there between the blind man and your spiritual eyesight?
4. Read [Mark 8:31-33](#). What expectations do you have of Jesus that may be causing spiritual blindness?

**Application Question:** Where do you still struggle to see God?



## PRAYERS

**Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer**



**PRAYERS**

**Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests**



**LEARN**

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



**LIVE**

**Discussion Questions:** Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

**1) Read [Mark 6:30-44](#) and [8:1-10](#). What messages or lessons can you glean from these miracles?**



Jesus' miracles carried divine pronouncements. These miracles should have shown the disciples that God provides abundance even when they thought they had nothing.



In [Mark 6](#) is the story of feeding the 5,000 and in chapter 8, the reprise – the feeding of 4,000. The stories are strikingly similar, except for the details. Miracles are hard to miss and at least in Jesus' case, almost everyone knew it was the power of God at work, though some still said it was the work of Satan. This, like all Jesus' other miracles, was an unmistakable display of compassion and power.



The feeding of the 5,000 is also in [Matthew 14:13-21](#); [Luke 9:10-17](#) and [John 6:5-13](#).

**Notes:**

**2) Read [Mark 8:11-21](#). What pharisaical attitudes or other blindness keep you from seeing Jesus?**



The Pharisees and the disciples were blind because they were thinking of only earthly things. Our sight is often no better even with the privilege of knowing the lessons they learned.



The Pharisees posed as guardians of God's truth who wouldn't believe Jesus was from God unless God Himself spoke from heaven to say so in some incontrovertible way. Jesus wouldn't give them that kind of sign because, even if He had, they would not have believed in Him. While Jesus was frustrated by Pharisees' hypocrisy, the disciples had just seen a repeat miracle packed with meaning and had no idea it was a calling card identifying Jesus as the Bread of Life.



Facilitate a brief discussion. Jesus repeatedly had to ask the disciples "Do you still not understand?" What lessons do you still struggle to learn even though God repeats Himself to you?

**Notes:**

**3) Read [Mark 8:22-30](#). What similarities are there between the blind man and your spiritual eyesight?**



Jesus heals our blindness. Most people who had seen and heard Jesus thought there was something special about him but, almost no one thought He was the Messiah, because no one could see, not even those who were closest to Him and loved Him.



Miracles have meanings and in fact, tell us more about Jesus than we realize. Despite all His teachings and miracles, and despite all the evidence right before our eyes, no one will ever see Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, unless He heals their blindness: unless God the Father reveals what we cannot see for ourselves. The problem is certainly not a lack of evidence, but a spiritual blindness that only God's touch can cure.



Look back at the questions Jesus has asked so far in [Mark 8](#). How would you describe Jesus' goals and strategy for asking these questions?

**Notes:**

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**4) Read [Mark 8:31-33](#). What expectations do you have of Jesus that may be causing spiritual blindness?**



Jesus healed the blindness of Peter, but like the blind man at first, he didn't see clearly. No one sees Jesus truly who will not see his suffering, rejection, death and resurrection as the heart of God's plan for the salvation of lost sinners.



Peter, like most people, wanted not too much from Jesus, but too little. People want a Jesus who answers prayers and works miracles for them. They want a Jesus who will make life convenient and worry-free. We don't often seem to want a Jesus who will transform our lives from the inside out. But we are blind if we don't see that all is lost if we gain the whole world and forfeit our souls. Often, the true temptation of Satan is not to outright deny Jesus, but to choose a Jesus who performs neat tricks over a Jesus that suffers and dies to save our very souls.

**Notes:**

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Application Question: What blindfold does God need to remove from your eyes?

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**PRAYERS**

**Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer**

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**LEAD**

**Ask Yourself: What spiritual blindness of mine has God healed that I can share with someone in my circles of influence?**



## PRAYERS

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## ROADMAP

This [BBT](#) volume of curriculum asks you to be open to Christ – to open your eyes, hearts, minds and ears. This lesson reveals how expectations and personal prejudices keep us from clearly seeing the work of Jesus in our lives.



## LEARN

The Pharisees would not believe in Jesus despite his many signs, because they trusted in their own judgement of who the Messiah was to be. Jesus' healing of the blind man (who at first could see only in part) demonstrated God's ability to heal the sight of all, even those who did not want to believe. Peter was alarmed, and his faith was challenged by Jesus' prediction of his own death because it did not match up with what he expected of the Messiah.

Scripture References for this study: [Mark 6:30-44](#) and [Mark 8:1-33](#)



## LIVE

- The blindfold of my own judgement
- The blindfold of my own prejudices
- The blindfold of my own expectations

Application Question: What blindfold does God need to remove from your eyes?



## LEAD

**Ask Yourself:** What spiritual blindness of mine has God healed that I can share with someone in my circles of influence?