



**Green Pond
United Methodist**

Study Guide

Faith in the 5 Senses

Sept. 17, 2023
“Look & See the
Lord is Good”

Opening Prayer:

O Gracious and Loving God, As we consider how creative and wonderful our physical vision is, it's hard to imagine that you long to grant us an even more amazing spiritual vision. We ask as we explore this week, that you would indeed open our eyes to see what you long for us to see. We thank you that you know us and understand how hard it is for us to keep our eyes fixed on you as so many smaller things compete for our attention. Help us this week, to get just a glimpse of your true glory. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture:

Psalm 119:105,109-112 (NRSV)

**105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

**109 I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.**

**110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.**

**111 Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.**

**112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.**

Hebrews 12:1b-2 (NIV)

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Matthew 5:8 (NRSV)

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

Introduction:

As we continue our study of “Faith in the Five Senses,” today we consider “sight.” For many, their vision is their most dominant sense and “seeing” is a metaphor used throughout the scriptures. Even our language to describe spiritual understanding often involves language of seeing and light—consider the words, “insight” and “enlightenment.” The scriptures often describe the need to “fix our eyes” on or focus on Christ and God’s goodness, but we live in a world that more and more competes for our attention. This week, we are invited to consider how spiritual vision is a gift from God, and then we will explore how we allow God to open our spiritual eyes to see more clearly.

Questions:

1. What is your favorite color? Why? Where are you when you find yourself most drawn to this color?
2. Read John 9:1-7. In this ancient context, people understood a disability (like not being able to see) as resulting from sin, either of the individual or their parents. Jesus takes the moment to correct this misunderstanding while also explaining that healing this man’s sight is a sign. Even in our context, some people treat those with a disability as less capable and valuable. In your lifetime, what technologies have been developed that helped people with disabilities live life more fully? As a church community, how might we affirm the value and preciousness of individuals with disabilities? Could we do better?
3. Again, referring to John 9:1-7, Jesus uses this healing, which he often called a “sign,” to help people understand more about who he is and why he had come. He says that he is the “light of the world.” As you consider how important light is to your physical vision (your ability to see depth, shadow and color) what do you think Jesus means by this statement? What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is the light?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:12. We have talked about how spiritual sight comes to us as a gift from God, but here on earth we do not see God’s glory fully. What do you think Paul is saying in this verse? How does it make you feel? Do you look forward to seeing God’s glory or is the idea overwhelming and difficult to imagine?
5. Spend some time reflecting on Matthew 5:8. While the ability to “see” spiritually is a gift, what do you think you could do to put yourself in a place where God could open your eyes? How has God opened your eyes in the past?

Application:

Find a specific spot in your yard, street or local park where you can visit once each day for the next week (or longer perhaps). What do you notice that is different each day? Are different people or critters there? Is the wind blowing or the air still? Is it more wet or dry? Have the leaves changed color? Just as this spot is ever changing, consider the ways that God is always seeking to bring you spiritual insight and clarity in big and small ways. Write down a few thoughts about what you believe God is helping you see.