

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

Reflect on the Word

BIBLE STORY

A Surprise for Bartimaeus
Mark 10:46-52

Have the preschoolers imagine what life would be like without the sense of sight.

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus showed that He is the Son of God

This lesson will help preschoolers know that Jesus, God's Son, healed Bartimaeus.

This lesson will help kindergartners understand that Jesus' healing miracles show that He is God's Son.

Encourage kindergartners to talk about ways people correct vision today. Point out that completely restoring sight to the blind is something that God's power can do.

- Read Mark 10:46-52. Take a moment to reflect on the following:
- Describe a time when you unmistakably saw God's power at work in your life.
 - Describe a time when you felt spiritually dead and blind.

Bartimaeus didn't have much going for him. Since he was blind, he couldn't work, take care of a family, or contribute to society. After all, Bartimaeus lived in a day when people with disabilities did not have rights. He was completely at the mercy of others. His only hope for survival was that people would be kind and give him money or food.

Bartimaeus had heard of Jesus. Sitting beside the road day after day, he heard small pieces of everything that went on. Recent conversations had focused on this man, Jesus. He heard about the amazing things Jesus did. He heard about the miracles and the healings.

Bartimaeus recognized the opportunity before him. If Jesus could heal the sick and the lame, why couldn't He heal Bartimaeus? At best, Jesus could heal his blindness and give him a chance to live fully. At worst, Bartimaeus would still be on the side of the road begging for money. He decided to take the risk of believing Jesus had the power to heal him.

That day, Bartimaeus received a gift that could only come from God's power, which was manifest in His Son, Jesus. When Jesus healed Bartimaeus, He gave a blind man not only sight, but also the gift of life. No longer would Bartimaeus be confined to begging in darkness. He would be able to work for a living, and he would be able to experience life through all of his senses.

Each time Jesus healed, He gave life. Like the others Jesus healed, Bartimaeus was able to return to a normal physical life. But they also received spiritual life. How could they not believe? They had seen God at work.

Even today, Jesus gives us sight and life which only God's Son can give. We may not be physically blind, but we have been spiritually blind. We see glimpses of God's power at work in the world around us. Our spiritual eyes are opened to the God who loves us. Our hearts are opened to His presence and the new life He is eager to give us. This is possible for one reason. Jesus is God's Son.

VERSE-A-MONTH

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"
(Matthew 16:16).

LESSON HELPS

HELPING HAND
Tips for teachers.

DIGGING DEEPER
Important biblical and theological insights.



Foundational words of the faith.

BASIC LESSON PLANNER

1. Choose preschool or kindergarten. Check the appropriate box.
2. Go step-by-step through each section of the lesson. A=3 steps. B=3 steps. C=3 steps.
3. If you would like additional lesson options, turn to pages 48 and 49.
4. Look at each activity to find needed supplies.

Category	Activity	Preschool	Kindergarten	Resources
Attention Getters	1—Jesus, God's Son, Is Alive! Bulletin Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources, Items 1A and 1C
	2—Say and Sign Bible Verse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources, Item 3
	3—Bible Truth Bounce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bible Explorations	1—Bible Story Transition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	2—Tell the Bible Story	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources, Items 1A and 1C
	3—Bible Story Review Questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources, Item 1
Connections To Life	1—Preschool Connections Activity Sheets 1/1b	<input type="checkbox"/>		Preschool Connections, Sheets 1/1b
	1—Kindergarten Connections Activity Sheets 3/3b		<input type="checkbox"/>	Kindergarten Connections, Sheets 3/3b
	2—Sightless Snack	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	3—Connecting with God Through Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Jesus, God's Son, Is Alive! Bulletin Board **5 MIN.**

Before class, Cover the board with springtime colored paper and add a border. Attach the title and tomb according to *Resources*, Item 1C. Attach Jesus and Bartimaeus according to *Resources*, Item 1A. Punch out the figure of Bartimaeus from Item 1C.

In class, Gather the children near the bulletin board. Say, **Look! What do you think our story is about?**

Preschool option, Say, **In today's Bible story, we will learn about a man who could not see. If he tried to look at the bulletin board, all he would see was black nothing darkness. Point to the black paper. Let's find out how Jesus, God's Son, helped this man. Reveal the picture.**

Kindergarten option, Point to the black paper. Say, **Tell me what you see here. Reveal the picture. Say, Today we will learn how Jesus helped a man who could not see. Every day all this man could see was blackness or nothing. How do you think that would feel?**

During the Bible story use the bulletin board picture and reveal the happy, sighted figure of Bartimaeus. After the Bible story, attach the picture and the figure of sighted Bartimaeus over blind Bartimaeus.

- You'll need**
- Resources, Items 1A and 1C
 - Gray, black, and brightly colored paper
 - Easter or springtime border
 - Scissors
 - Stapler, removable tape, or Plasti-Tak

Say and Sign Bible Verse **5 MIN.**

Before class, Practice the signs for the words: God, power, do, and promise.

In class, Gather children at the poster.

Preschool option, Point to and say the word for each sign. Repeat each signed word, having children do the sign and say the word. Say the verse four times, doing the signs. Say, **Our Bible verse will help us to remember that Jesus is God's Son. Let's find out how Jesus helped someone in today's Bible story.**

Kindergarten option, Follow the same steps as for preschoolers. Then, cover the poster or remove it from the wall. Have the group say and sign the verse with you, without seeing the poster. Reveal the poster. Ask, **Who is Jesus? Let's see what Jesus did to help a man in today's Bible story.**

- You'll need**
- Resources, Item 3
 - Plasti-Tak

Bible Truth Bounce **5 MIN.**

In class, Have the children stand in a circle. Say, **We are going to learn about Jesus today. Did you know that Jesus is God's Son? Because He is God's Son, Jesus can do many special things. Today we will hear about one of the special things Jesus did.**

Have each child bounce the ball one time per word as they say the Bible truth, "Jesus is God's Son." Help children to bounce the ball for each word of the Bible truth and then bounce the ball back to you.

Preschool option, Roll the ball to a child. Ask, **Who is Jesus?** Have the child respond, **Jesus is God's Son.** Then let the child roll the ball to you, repeating the question. Continue the game, repeating the activity with each child.

Kindergarten option, Divide the class into teams of two. Have each team bounce a beach ball back and forth, saying the Bible truth in tandem, one word per bounce.

Say, **Let's find out what special thing Jesus did in today's Bible story.**

- You'll need**
- Beach ball (One per two children.)

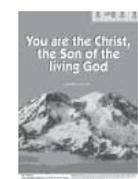
Attention Getters

15 MIN.

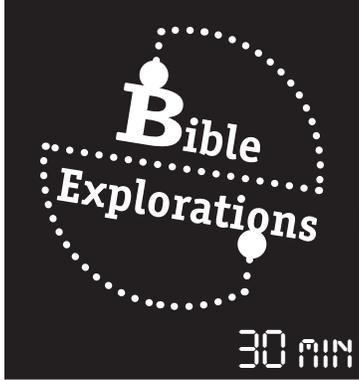
As children arrive, allow them to do activity centers as suggested in the unit pages. When you are ready to begin, do the three *Attention Getters* activities on this page before moving to *Bible Explorations*. Each *Attention Getters* activity can be used with preschoolers or kindergartners.



It is important to be sensitive to the feelings of children with disabilities and those who have a family member with a disability. Take care that your language does not imply that disabilities diminish a person's importance. Emphasize that people with disabilities are very important to God. Give thanks to God for medical and societal advancements that help people with disabilities live fulfilling lives.



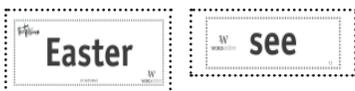
Go to page 10 for additional Attention Getters options.



Transition children to the Bible story time, tell the Bible story, and ask the review questions. If needed, retell the Bible story to children for understanding. Then go to *Connections to Life*.



Easter: *Easter* is a special time when Christians celebrate that God's Son, Jesus, is alive.



Kindergartners ONLY! Photocopy onto colored paper and cut out the **Faith Word** card for *Easter* from page 88 and the kindergarten sight word, *see*, from page 89. Invite two kindergartners to hold these word cards during the Bible story. When *Easter* is said in the story, the child holds up the word card and the kindergartners repeat, *Easter*. Each time you read the sight word, stop and have the children read it along with you.

Go to page 10 for an optional Bible story activity.

Preschool Bible Story Transition **5 MIN.**

Before class, Make a clear path to the Bible story area.

In class, Have children form a line, with one hand over their eyes and the other hand on the shoulder of the child in front of them. Say, **What do you see? Bartimaeus was blind. A person who is blind cannot see. If you can't see, how will you get to the Bible story area? I'll lead you there! Hold onto the shoulder of the friend in front of you as you walk.**

Kindergarten Bible Story Transition **5 MIN.**

In class, Have the children walk

You'll need

- Age-appropriate Bible
- Faith Word and Kindergarten Sight Word cards
- Resources, Items 1A and 1C

with you to the Bible story area, say, **Easter. Repeat with me. Easter. What is Easter? Sit together and have children cover their eyes. Say, Let's find out what it's like to be blind. Say, How does it feel?**

Distribute the two word cards to two children.

Tell the Bible Story **20 MIN.**

A SURPRISE FOR BARTIMAEUS – *Easter* is a special time when Christians celebrate that God's Son, Jesus, is alive. We are going to hear special stories about Jesus, God's Son, as together we prepare for and celebrate *Easter*.

Do you know what it means to be blind? It means that you cannot see. Close your eyes. What is it like not to see me as I talk? Open your eyes. I want to tell you a true story from the Bible. It is about a blind man named Bartimaeus. He could not see. He could not work. He sat in the same place every day. As people walked by, he would say, "Can you help me? Please?"

One day Bartimaeus was sitting by the road. It was right outside the city of Jericho. Bartimaeus could hear the clop, clop, clop of donkey's hooves. He could hear the rustle of robes as people moved. He could smell the dust. But Bartimaeus could not see.

Bartimaeus realized that something was different. There were sounds of a lot of excited people.

"It is Jesus," Bartimaeus thought. He had heard how Jesus was healing people. Someone had even said he could make the blind see.

"Jesus," Bartimaeus called out. "Have mercy on me. Help me! Jesus!"

"Now hush," people in the crowd said to him. But he did not hush. "Jesus! Son of David. Jesus! Have mercy on me. Help me."

"Shush," said the people. "Be quiet."

"Jesus, Jesus," Bartimaeus shouted. He wanted to talk to Jesus.

Jesus heard Bartimaeus calling to Him. Jesus stopped walking. "Bring him to Me."

Hands started reaching for Bartimaeus. "Get up! On your feet," they said. "Jesus is calling you."

Bartimaeus jumped to his feet, threw aside his coat, and started toward Jesus.

Bartimaeus stood before Jesus. The crowd of people got very quiet. Bartimaeus was so excited.

"What do you want Me to do for you today?" Jesus asked.

Bartimaeus knew exactly what he wanted. He said, "I want to see."

Jesus smiled. "Go," He said. "Your faith has healed you."

Bartimaeus blinked his eyes. Just like that he could see! "Yes!" he shouted. Everything was bright and beautiful. He could see the faces of people. Bartimaeus followed Jesus along the road.

Bible Story Review Questions **5 MIN.**

Ask Preschoolers,

1. Why was Bartimaeus begging?
2. How did Jesus help Bartimaeus?
3. What did Bartimaeus do after Jesus healed him?

Ask Kindergartners,

1. Where was Bartimaeus when he met Jesus?
2. How did Bartimaeus catch Jesus' attention?
3. What did Jesus say healed Bartimaeus?

Preschool Connections

5 MIN.

Before class, Separate the instructions from Sheet 1 and punch out the figure of Bartimaeus.

In class, Give each child Sheet 1b. Have the children color the eyes to match their own eye color. Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, who gave Bartimaeus eyes to see.

Have children turn over the sheet and color the scene of Jesus talking to Bartimaeus. Retell the Bible story, having the children glue the figure of the healed Bartimaeus over the blind Bartimaeus when you tell the part of the story where Bartimaeus is healed. Say, **Jesus healed Bartimaeus. He was blind, then he could see. When Jesus healed Bartimaeus, Jesus showed He is the Son of God. Go and tell someone the story of Bartimaeus.**

Sightless Snack

5 MIN.

In class, Divide the class into pairs. Say, **We learned from today's Bible story that Bartimaeus needed a lot of help getting around and doing everyday things. Do you think Bartimaeus would have been able to make himself a snack? Bartimaeus's family and friends probably helped him get his food, just as they helped him find his way to Jesus. Let's help our friends by making snacks for them!**

Preschool option, Let children make two small cracker sandwiches for their partners, pray, eat, and enjoy!

Kindergarten option, Have the children make two small cracker sandwiches for their partners. Then let the children use the small pitcher to pour drinks for their partners. Pray together. As the children enjoy their snacks, say, **Jesus showed that He is God's Son when He healed Bartimaeus. How do you think Bartimaeus felt when Jesus healed his eyes?**

Connecting with God Through Prayer

5 MIN.

In class, Next to the Bible story time, this is the most important lesson activity. Always wrap up your lesson with prayer. Note children's requests and praises. Write them on the flip chart or in a journal. Refer to these during each week's prayer time.

Pray, **Thank You, God, for Your Son, Jesus. We are thankful that Jesus loved and healed Bartimaeus. We believe You love us and will help us too. Amen.**

Kindergarten Enrichment, Encourage children to mention and pray for specific friends who do not know about God's Son, Jesus.

Bless children as they leave, **Thank You, God, for [Child's name]. Help [Child's name] to share Your Son, Jesus, with others this week.**

Kindergarten Connections

5 MIN.

In class, give each child Sheet 3. Read the sheet to the children. Then have the children trace the letters to spell the words Easter and Jesus. Let the children color the picture of Jesus. Ask, **Who is Jesus? Jesus showed that He is God's Son. We can believe it!**

Have the children turn the sheet over. Read the instructions. Then let the children trace the words. Say the Bible verse. Allow volunteers to say the Bible verse.

You'll need

- Connections, Sheets 3/3b
- Pencils • Crayons

You'll need

- Connections, Sheets 1/1b
- Crayons or washable markers
- Glue stick

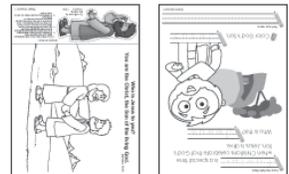
You'll need

- Crackers
- Pepperoni slices
- Cheese slices, cut into fourths
- Water
- Small plates OR napkins
- Cups • Small pitcher

Connections To Life

15-20 MIN

Connect this lesson to life for children. Do one activity sheet, one additional activity, and end with a time of prayer.



60-65 MIN.

60-65 min. is your total lesson time. Add or take away activities to adjust your class time.

Christian holiness simply stated means to live in step with God, growing more Christlike as we allow the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The good news is that we do not have to do this through our own will or power. We cannot! Instead it is God's power at work in us, as we allow Him dominion over our lives and choose to obediently follow His plans for us.



You'll need

- Take-home items for each child (including *Celebrate and unit items*)

You'll need

- Flip chart and marker or journal and pen

Go to page 11 for additional Connections to Life options.



Memory Map (K)

Before class, Use the black marker to print two words of the Bible verse on each of the differently colored sheets of paper. Tape the sheets to the floor in random order. Then, on a note card, print the numbers 1-6. Then, next to the numbers, make a colored

mark corresponding to the color of paper. This is a number "map" to help children get the Bible verse words in the correct order.

In class, Read the Bible verse aloud. Then have the children stand in a line. Guide each child to step on the construction paper in the order listed on the map. As the child hops from sheet to sheet, have that child say the Bible verse with you. When the child finishes the activity, have him or her pass the map to the next person in line. Give each child a turn.

- You'll need**
- Black permanent marker
 - Construction paper sheets (six colors)
 - Note card
 - Markers (same colors as the paper)
 - Masking tape

Pin the Happy on the Face (P)

Before class, Draw a large face on a sheet of paper. Draw eyes and nose, but no mouth. On another sheet of paper, draw mouths to fit the happy face. Make one mouth per child in your class, plus extras for visitors. Cut out the mouths and place a tape loop on the back of each. Attach the face to the wall at the children's eye level.

In class, Say, **Do you ever wonder what it's like to be blind? When you are blind, you can't see anything but darkness. What do we do today to help people who cannot see? Let's play a game to experience what it's like to not be able to see.**

Play this game like *Pin the Tail on the Donkey*. Have the children take turns putting on the blindfold, spinning around, and trying to attach a smile to the face.

Say, **How might it feel to be unable to see anything? What would it be like trying to find your toys or your shoes if you could not see? (Allow answers) Today we will hear a story about someone who could not see. Let's play a game to experience what it is like to be blind.**

Do not force children to put on the blindfold if they do not wish to. Let them cover or close their eyes instead. Encourage the children not to peek, but know that they may peek through their fingers to see the face.

- You'll need**
- Construction paper
 - Scissors for teacher
 - Marker for teacher
 - Tape loops
 - Blindfold

Bible Story

Bartimaeus's Story Time

Based on Mark 10:46-52

Before class, Have the helper memorize this story to recite it or paraphrase it for the children.

(Greet the children, holding the blindfold.) Hi, my name is Bartimaeus. I have to tell you about something wonderful that happened the day I met Jesus! *(Move to a different spot, sit down, and tie the blindfold around your eyes.)*

I was blind. I could not see anything. I could not work because I could not see. I did not have money for food. So I sat by the road all day, asking people to give me money for food. It was pretty boring, but I get to listen to people talk as they walk along the road.



One day, I heard a lot of people talking about someone named Jesus. I had heard good things about Jesus. I had heard He could do special things that only God's Son could do.

Then I heard a lot of people talking all at once. "It's Jesus!" they cried. "Here He comes!"

If Jesus could do so many special things, I was sure He could heal my eyes. So I called out to Him.

"Jesus! Hey, Jesus! Have mercy on me!" I called. Someone helped me get to Jesus.

Jesus asked what I wanted Him to do for me. I told Him, "Lord, I want to see!"

Jesus said to me, "Go. Your faith has healed you." (*Remove the blindfold from your eyes.*)

I could see! Oh, thank You, Jesus! You healed my eyes! I knew Jesus was the Son of God.

So now I not only see with my eyes, but I choose to follow Jesus!

Unidentified Objects (P)

Before class, Gather and place the items in an opaque bag.

In class, Ask, **If you are blind and cannot see with your eyes, how can you tell what things are?** (*Touch, smell, taste, hear*)

Have children close their eyes. Then let them take turns putting their hand into the bag and grasping an object. Have the child guess the object while holding it inside the bag. As the children name the items, have them describe how they reached that conclusion.

After all the children have identified an object, say, **It was very hard for Bartimaeus to tell what things were. He had to use his other senses like hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting to tell what things were, since he couldn't see them. How do you think Bartimaeus may have felt after Jesus gave him sight? What do you think may have been the first thing Bartimaeus saw when he opened his eyes? Maybe the first person He saw was Jesus, God's Son! Go home and tell someone you know the story of how Jesus healed Bartimaeus.**

Obstacle Course (K)

Before class, Set up an obstacle course by placing classroom furniture and toys randomly around the room. Use masking tape to make a start and finish line at either end of the obstacle course.

In class, Divide the group into pairs. Say, **Bartimaeus really wanted to see again. He called out to Jesus because He had heard that Jesus could help him. Jesus had the people bring Bartimaeus to Him. Then Jesus healed Bartimaeus. What Jesus did was very special. We know that Jesus is the Son of God because of the special things that He does. Let's act out the story of Bartimaeus together.**

Have each pair line up behind one tape line. Blindfold one child. Have the partner lead the child from one masking tape line to another, guiding the child around obstacles. When the pair reaches the line, have a helper remove the blindfold and place it over the other child's eyes. Then have the seeing partner guide the blindfolded child back to the starting line. Remove the blindfold and let the next pair start the game. Encourage the children to cheer for the teams as they complete the course.

Say, Jesus is God's Son. We can trust Him to help us. We can talk with Him anytime and anywhere.

You'll need

- Blindfold
- Adult helper (to play the part of Bartimaeus)

Lesson 1 Options

Connections to Life

You'll need

- Opaque bag
- Orange • Rock
- Flower • Cup
- Toy car
- Cinnamon candy stick
- Baby rattle

You'll need

- Blindfold
- Classroom furniture or toys
- Masking tape