

Session 21

Blind Bartimaeus

The children read the story of Bartimaeus and understand more about Jesus' love.

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52, Hebrews 12:1-2

Supplies:

- ◆ Toilet rolls for: Bartimaeus (with bandages over his eyes), Jesus and few for the crowd of people
- ◆ Mask pattern
- ◆ Paper
- ◆ Colouring pencils and/or crayons
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Glue
- ◆ A bag (which can close) full of items for prayer



WELCOME

Blind man's buff: This game is played in a spacious area (outdoors or in a large room). Designate one player as "It". Blindfold "it" and encourage him/her to move around attempting to touch the other players without being able to see them, while the other players scatter and try to avoid the person who is "it". Encourage the other players to tease and move around "it", near and far. Blind man's buff is ideally played in an area free of dangerous obstructions so that the "it" player will not suffer injury from tripping over or hitting something.

Blindfold rope line: Lay a thin rope line out on the grass. Use a rope about 10m long. Players are blindfolded one at a time and are challenged to walk on the line. More points for getting further, losing points every time they step on the ground other than on the line.



WORSHIP

Settle down ritual:

Psalm 56:4: "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You, Lord."

Breathe in through your nose with the phrase "When I am afraid"; exhale the air while saying: "I will put my trust in You." Repeat three times.

Theme song: (Choose one)

- ♪ "He's got the whole world in His hands"
- ♪ "My God is so great"
- ♪ "My God is so big" – Go fish (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcsT4RUOPzE>)
- ♪ "Turn your eyes upon Jesus"



WORD

Can you imagine you are blind? (The children can place their hands over their eyes.) How does it feel to not be able to see anything? Scared? Uncertain? Helpless? (Let the children open their eyes again and discuss it.)

(The presenter can now take out the toilet rolls. Place the crowd in the middle, with Jesus in between them and Bartimaeus off to one side. Move the figures as necessary.)

One day, when Jesus was on his way to Jericho, a large crowd was following him. They wanted to listen to him and even get His attention. It was very noisy with people bumping each other. At the side of the road, a man was sitting and begging. He had nothing because he had been born blind. In those days, people who were blind couldn't work and were poor.

Can you imagine how it must have been for him to never have seen colours or a parent's face or the food you eat? You can hear birds sing, but don't know what they look like when they fly or what a camel's hump looks like.

Bartimaeus sat next to the road every day, and just listened to what was happening around him. On this busy day, he heard a whole lot of noise and commotion. Everyone around him could see what was happening except for him. He asked the people around him what was happening and they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

Bartimaeus probably had heard about Jesus before and what He had said and done. He began to call to Jesus, saying: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (To have mercy means to care about someone.) However, the people in the crowd didn't think that a beggar was good enough for Jesus to give him attention and told him to be quiet.

Bartimaeus, on the other hand, just called out even louder. He didn't think that Jesus would just want him to be quiet like the other people.

Jesus stood still and saw Bartimaeus. He didn't think that Bartimaeus didn't matter or wasn't important because he was blind or a beggar. He asked the crowd to bring Bartimaeus to him.

And so the people told Bartimaeus: "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." They probably couldn't believe that Jesus was paying attention to a blind beggar.

We read in the Bible how he almost leapt out of his clothes to get up and go to Jesus. He took off his outer cloak and went to Jesus. An outer cloak was a kind of jacket which people also used to sleep on.

When he stood in front of Jesus, just as he had hoped to, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus asked Jesus something that only God could do, and answered, "Rabbi, I want to see." (Rabbi means teacher.)

Jesus then said to him: "Go, your faith has healed you." At once, Bartimaeus could see! The first thing he probably saw was the face of his new teacher, Jesus - the face of someone who truly cared for him. It must have been wonderful to finally be able to see and look at the world!

Bartimaeus was so happy about being able to see that he left everything there and followed Jesus along with the rest of the crowd!

The children now get the chance to reflect on the following:

1. I wonder why the people wanted Bartimaeus to keep quiet.
2. I wonder why Jesus wanted to heal Bartimaeus.
3. I wonder if there are people that we miss, but that Jesus sees.
4. I wonder how I would have felt if it was me that Jesus had healed.



WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

✍ For toddlers and small children: Bartimaeus mask with eyes or bandages that can move.

✍ For small groups: A bag full of objects to be sent around that the children can touch and feel. Each child gets a chance to put a hand in the closed bag. Try to identify the objects and then thank God for them (e.g. toothpaste, a fork, a tin of food, a toy, a pencil or anything similar).

✍ You can find an interesting push pop spring box to use with this session:

<https://pin.it/x4v6mi7qipddgb>

Close with the following blessing:

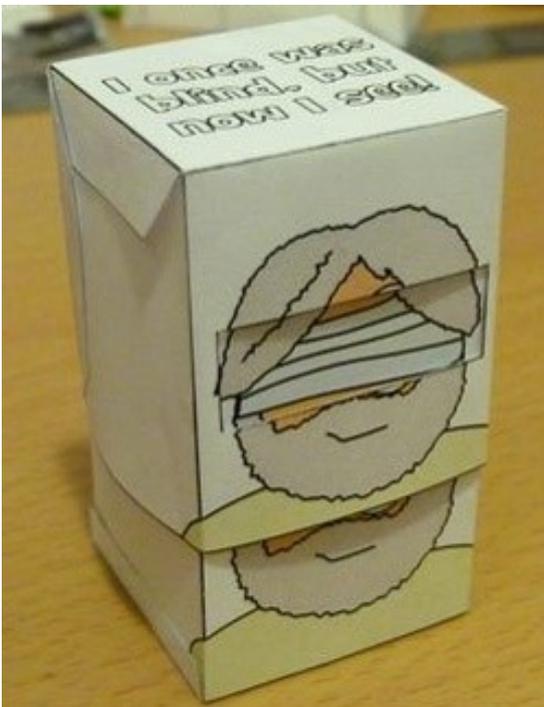
The children stand together and hold each other's hands. When we pray for each other we show our open hands to each other. This says that we are open to receive and find God's treasures and to share them with each other.

Say together:

God has treasures for me (hands to myself) and for you (hands to your friend).

God gives treasures to me (hands to myself) and to you (hands to your friend).

May my hands, eyes and ears always be open to God's treasures and surprises.



“Push pop spring box” activity: <https://pin.it/x4v6mi7qipddgb>

