

March 11, 2018

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Blind Bartimaeus*

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God kept His greatest and best promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins.

In our lesson today, our children will learn about Jesus healing blind Bartimaeus. The story is short, but provides a lot of depth and basic biblical concepts for our children. The first is to recognize ourselves in the story; we too are like Bartimaeus. Not physically blind, but spiritually blinded by our sin. Not only are we spiritually blinded, but we are beggars as well. We are in spiritual poverty marred by sin and broken from a fulfilling, satisfying relationship with Jesus. All our attempts to fix our blindness and poverty are futile. We must, like Bartimaeus, cry out for mercy from Jesus. Only then, when we recognize nothing else will or can work, can we come to Jesus and ask, "I want to see," or "I want to be healed." The journey from recognition to healing may be short, but most often than not it is long. It will require tremendous faith that only Jesus can heal us. In the end, healing may never ever come this side of eternity. But if it does, we know we can loudly praise that Jesus has heard our cries and answered our prayers; and if not, one day when the brokenness and sadness come undone, we will be able to praise Him for all eternity (Revelation 21:1-4).

**Scripture:** Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

**Story:** Vos Child's Study Bible, Pages 308-309; The Beginner's Bible, Pages 438-443.

## 9:30am Sunday Schedule

**Opening Activity:** Hedbanz

**Cherub Church**

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165, 164, 163)

**Craft:** Bartimaeus Can See

**Supplies:** Sad face, happy face, craft stick, Band-Aids, crayons/markers

**Instructions:**

1. Cover sad face eyes with Band-Aids.
2. Color both sad and happy faces.
3. Glue backs of faces together capturing stick in between so kids can flip from happy to sad.



**Relay of the Day:** Red Rover

**Snack**

## 11am Sunday Schedule

**Opening Activity:** Hedbanz

**Craft:** Bartimaeus Jumps to His Feet

**Supplies:** Man figure, feet, paper strips, tape, crayons/markers

**Instructions:**

1. Color figure and feet.
2. Fold strips back and forth.
3. Tape one end of two strips to figure and the other end to feet.

**Relay of the Day:** Red Rover



### **Story: *Blind Bartimaeus***

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, close your eyes for ten seconds. What was that like? [Allow children to answer] Now close your eyes for 30 seconds; ask the children, "what was that like?" [Allow children to answer] Now, close your eyes for a full minute and again ask "What was that like?" Today our story is about a blind man named Bartimaeus, but something incredible happens to Bartimaeus. Let's find out in our story...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

### **Teaching Summary:**

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- Jesus continued to travel to different places proclaiming that the kingdom of God had arrived and that He was the one to bring it. Jesus was the fulfillment of OT promises that the King would come from God and deliver God's people.
- Jesus is teaching and traveling near Jericho.
- A blind man name Bartimaeus begged near Jericho. Upon hearing Jesus is travelling by, Bartimaeus calls out for mercy from Jesus.
- Bartimaeus is told to be quiet, but that makes him cry louder.
- Jesus hears his cries and asks what does he, Bartimaeus, want.
- Bartimaeus responds with, "I want to see." Jesus heals Bartimaeus' blindness. Bartimaeus trusts that Jesus can heal him of his infirmity.
- Bartimaeus follows Jesus praising him.

## **Story**

### **Transition**

Boys and girls, close your eyes for ten seconds. What was that like? [Allow children to answer] Now close your eyes for 30 seconds; ask the children, "what was that like?" [Allow children to answer] Now, close your eyes for a full minute and again ask "What was that like?" Today our story is about a blind man named Bartimaeus, but something incredible happens to Bartimaeus. Let's find out in our story...

### **Blind Bartimaeus**

Jesus continued to travel to many different places teaching people that the kingdom of God had come. One day Jesus and his disciples approached the city of Jericho. Jesus and his disciples were not alone though. The Bible tells us a large crowd traveled with them. As Jesus, the disciples and the large crowd traveled on the road along Jericho, a blind man named Bartimaeus sat by the roadside begging. In Jesus' day those who were blind, deaf, or could not walk were left to beg for food or money especially if they had no family to help take care of them.

The Bible tells us that when Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was travelling by, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" There were people around who told Bartimaeus to be quiet and not talk. But Bartimaeus shouted louder and louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus heard the blind beggar, stopped and said, "Call him."

So, a few people in the crowd called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! Jesus is calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, Bartimaeus jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Lord, I want to see." Bartimaeus believed that Jesus could help him see. No one else could help, nothing else could help him, only Jesus. Bartimaeus trusted that only Jesus could help him see again.

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately Bartimaeus received his sight and followed Jesus along the road praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

### Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What city was Jesus traveling near?
- Who was the beggar in our story?
- How did he hear about Jesus coming down the road?
- What did Bartimaeus say to get Jesus' attention?
- What did Bartimaeus want from Jesus?
- What did Jesus do for Bartimaeus?
- Why did Jesus heal Bartimaeus?
- How did Bartimaeus respond to Jesus healing him?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God's love for us?

### Scripture Memory for March:

For the Son of Man (Jesus) came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

### Catechism Questions (1-20)

### Hymn of the Month:

Lift High the Cross