

Bartimaeus Sees

Lesson At-A-Glance


Scripture Reference
Mark 10:46-52

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 21

Lesson Focus
Jesus' love is big.



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Center Time Kids look through cardboard tubes to find big things, dance in bubbles the leader blows, and color Bible story pictures.</p>	<p>Coloring Pages </p>	<p>Cardboard tubes, bubble wand and solution, blank paper, markers or crayons</p>
<p>Circle Time Kids greet each other as they move a ball around the circle, hear about the church season, and play a circle game.</p>	<p>Leaflets</p>	<p>Beach ball, wooden blocks</p>
<p>Prayer Time Kids pray an action prayer.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

Open the Bible (15 minutes)


	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Bartimaeus Sees Storytelling Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.</p>	<p>Spark Story Bible</p>	<p>Unbreakable mirror</p>
<p>What Did Bartimaeus See? Kids create heart-shaped paintings.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>White construction paper, scissors, paper plates, cotton swabs, green and other bright colors of washable tempera paint, paint shirts</p>
<p>Bartimaeus Can See! Kids do an echo review of the Bible story.</p>	<p>Leaflets, Lesson Stickers</p>	<p>None</p>

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
So Big! Kids use stickers of big things on the leaflet.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
Waving Opposites Kids wave their leaflets in an action story review.	Leaflets	None
Big Love for Everyone Kids play a ball game.	None	Beach ball

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids share an active blessing.	Leaflets	None
Prayer Time Kids celebrate Jesus' big love in an action prayer.	Family Pages 	None

 Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have time to participate in at least one center, make the sound of a train whistle. Stop at each center and call out, **"All aboard!"** Have the kids hold hands to create a train. After everyone is holding on to the train, circle around the room chanting, **"Jesus loves me! Jesus loves you! Choo, choo!"** Lead the kids into the Circle Time area.

Spyglasses

Use the tubes as spyglasses. Look for big objects in the classroom. Spy out the window to find big objects outside. Spy out of your classroom door to look for other big things.

Bubble Dance

Blow bubbles. Invite kids to twirl, jump, fly, and prance through the bubbles. Try to blow a very big bubble. Kids can look for the tiny rainbow inside each bubble.

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies and copies of the Spark Coloring Page available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Cardboard tubes
Bubble wand and solution
Blank paper
Markers or crayons

Circle Time

Hi, everyone! Let's all say hi to God, too! (*Hi, God!*) **Let's play a welcome game.**

Kids will copy your actions:

God loves the big, big world. Hold the ball up high. Kids will raise hands high.

God loves little, little me. Place ball in your lap and hug yourself.

God loves all of us, you see. Stretch arms out wide.

God loves . . . Pass the ball to the kid on your left and have everyone shout out the kid's name. The kid passes it on to the next kid and the group calls out that kid's name. Continue until everyone has been named.

Hold the leaflet for the kids to see. Point to the seasonal icon, the leafing tree.

Outside our church, the season in nature is fall. How can we tell it's fall?

(*Whatever is appropriate for your region—the leaves turn pretty colors and fall to the ground, the weather gets cooler, the birds fly south.*) **Inside our church, we have a**

different kind of season. The season in our church is Pentecost. We can tell it's Pentecost because we see green. We remember Pentecost because we can see the tree. The tree reminds us that every day we grow in our love for Jesus.

To reinforce the idea of growing love, scatter blocks around your class area. Go on a block hunt. Be sure each kid finds one block. Work together to build a tall block tower. **See! Each day you all grow taller, just like this tower. Each day you all grow in your love for Jesus, too.**

Have kids form a circle again, join hands, and scrunch together in the center of the circle.

How big is Jesus' love? This big! Kids echo. All step backward, stretching the circle as big as it can be.

Repeat twice.

Invite a kid to stand in the center of the big circle. Keep hands joined.

How big is Jesus' love for _____ (name)? All raise joined hands high.

This big! Kids echo.

Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Beach ball

Wooden blocks

Prayer Time

Invite kids to copy your actions.

Jesus' love is big. (*clap loudly*)

Jesus' love is big. (*stamp loudly*)

Jesus' love is big. (*make muscles*)

Jesus' love is big. (*repeat in a loud voice*)

Thank you, Jesus, for your great big love!

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Bartimaeus Sees Storytelling

In our Bible story we'll meet a man who is blind. That means that he can't see.

Cover and uncover your eyes with your hands. **His name is Bartimaeus. Jesus surprises Bartimaeus with his big, big love. Let's listen to find out what the surprise is.**

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to Bartimaeus Sees on page 338. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make a face like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer.

How did Jesus show his big love for Bartimaeus? (*He healed Bartimaeus so he could see.*) **How did Bartimaeus feel when he met Jesus?** (*happy*) **Let's make a happy face. Look at your happy face in the mirror. Whenever I see your happy face it makes me happy!** Hold up the mirror to each kid. You could also ask kids to look in the mirror and say "Big," "Bartimaeus," and "Bubbles," emphasizing the "B" sound.

When Jesus healed Bartimaeus's eyes, it was a miracle! A miracle is a big, big, amazing thing. Jesus performed many miracles to show his big love for people. Jesus sends people to share his big love with us. Tell kids an example of someone who shares Jesus' love with you. **Who shares Jesus' big love with you?**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

Unbreakable mirror

What Did Bartimaeus See?

As the kids watch, cut out a large heart shape from a piece of white construction paper. **What shape is this?** (*heart*) **Is this a big heart or a little heart?** (*big*) **We're going to paint big, bright hearts to remember the bright new world Bartimaeus could see after Jesus healed him.** While everyone is putting on paint shirts and pushing up sleeves, cut out a heart for each kid. Pour a bit of green paint on a paper plate. Demonstrate how to dip the end of the cotton swab into the paint and make dots. Begin with everyone using green (for Pentecost). Set out one plate of paint for every two kids. Discard swabs as needed. Then add colors the kids request. Admire and set aside to dry.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

White construction paper
Scissors
Paper plates
Cotton swabs
Green and other bright colors
of washable tempera paint
Paint shirts

Bartimaeus Can See!

Invite everyone to gather around a table. Give each kid a leaflet. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet.

Let's pretend we're the man in the Bible story who was blind. Cover your eyes with your hands.

Let's repeat Bartimaeus's words:

Jesus! (kids repeat)

Please help me! (kids repeat)

Please help me to see again! (kids repeat)

Now uncover your eyes. Hand out the heart sticker. **Jesus helped Bartimaeus to see! Let's put the heart sticker between Jesus and Bartimaeus.** Assist kids who need help.

Jesus loved Bartimaeus with his great big love.

Hooray!

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

So Big!

Have kids turn the leaflet over. **Jesus' love is so big that it healed Bartimaeus's eyes. Jesus' love is bigger than a _____.** Hold up the dinosaur sticker and have the kids name it. **Yes! Jesus' love is bigger than a dinosaur.** Let the kids place the sticker on the leaflet. Repeat this process for the whale and the world stickers. **What are some other great big things?** Accept kids' responses. **Jesus' love is biggest of all!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Waving Opposites

Move kids to an area of the room where there is space to move. **Bartimaeus was so happy when Jesus helped him to see. Let's show with our leaflets how happy he was. Hold your leaflet like this.** Hold it like a fan. **Now pretend you're really hot. Fan your face. Now hold your leaflet up high and wave it.**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Have kids use their leaflets and copy your actions.

Wave them high. (*wave leaflet high above your head*)

Wave them low. (*wave by your feet*)

Wave them fast. (*wave rapidly*)

Wave them slow. (*wave slowly*)

Bartimaeus was blind. He couldn't see. (*cover face with leaflet*)

Then Jesus came to town. (*wave leaflet high*)

He loved Bartimaeus and helped him see. (*wave some more*)

Bartimaeus was happy—Yippee! (*stand up and wave leaflet high*)

Look at Squiggles. How does he feel? (*happy*) **How do you know he is happy?** (*he's dancing*) **Squiggles is happy because Bartimaeus can see!**

Big Love for Everyone

Let's stand in a big circle. Jesus' love is so big! Throw the ball up high in the center of the circle and catch it. **Jesus' love is so big!** Have the kids echo your words as you throw the ball up high again. **We're going to play a game. When I call out your name, you run into the center of the circle and catch the beach ball. Then return the ball to me.**

Jesus' big love is for (name one kid). The kid named will go into the center of the circle, catch the ball, and return it to you. Continue the game until all kids and leaders have had a turn.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Beach ball

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Have the kids stand in a circle and thank them for coming. **Let's say a blessing for our bodies. Copy my actions!**

God bless my head, shoulders, knees, and toes. (touch each one)

God bless my eyes, ears, mouth, and nose. (touch each one)

God bless all of me and all of you. (hug self and "high five" everyone)

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home, because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family. Today we heard that Jesus' love was so big that he helped Bartimaeus to see. We learned that Jesus' big love is for us, too. When you go home, ask your family to play an "I Spy" game to find all the pretty colors you can see.**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Kids will copy your actions.

Jesus' love is big. (*clap loudly*)

Jesus' love is big. (*stamp loudly*)

Jesus' love is big. (*make muscles*)

Jesus' love is big. (*repeat in a loud voice*)

Thank you, Jesus, for your great big love!

Amen.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None