

# Bartimaeus Sees

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Mark 10:46-52**

Lectionary Sunday/  
Church Season  
**Pentecost**

Lesson Focus  
**Jesus makes me bold and confident.**



Tear here for easy use!

### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Arrival Time</b> Kids imagine being blind and do an Activity Page.	Activity Pages 	Paper lunch bag; one small, unusual "mystery" object; rubber band; markers or pencils
<b>Circle Time</b> Kids greet each other using the letter <i>B</i> , hear about the church season, and guess what the "mystery" item is.	Leaflet	Lunch bag with mystery object
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids pray an add-on prayer.	None	None

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)


	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Bartimaeus Sees Storytelling</b> Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible, and kids investigate ways blind persons "see."	Spark Story Bibles	None
<b>Whooooo?</b> Kids repeat the name Bartimaeus to retell the Bible story.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
<b>Awesome Sight</b> Kids write or draw about an awesome sight.	Leaflets	Pencils or markers

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Looking for Jesus</b> Kids discover signs of Jesus in church items.	Leaflets	Pencils
<b>Guide Dog Training</b> Kids learn how a puppy becomes a guide dog.	Leaflets	None
<b>I Spy Game</b> Kids play a game called "I Spy."	None	Empty paper towel roll

Tear here for easy use!

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Good-bye Time</b> Kids select what they will do at home this week and gather to say good-bye.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids echo prayer petitions.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Visit [www.sparksondayschool.org](http://www.sparksondayschool.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: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

# Gather (10 minutes)

## Arrival Time

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Set out copies of the Activity Page for this lesson and markers or pencils on a table.

Select any small object of your choice, and place it in a lunch bag. Loosely close the top of the lunch bag containing the mystery object with the rubber band.

**Today's story is about a man named Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus could not see. I put something in this lunch bag so we could learn about Bartimaeus. Can any of you see what's in the bag? So we're sort of like Bartimaeus. We can feel the bag and guess what might be inside. We can use our hands to help us see.**

Invite kids to do the Activity Page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or small group.

### Spark Resources

Activity Pages



### Supplies

Paper lunch bag

One small, unusual "mystery" object

Rubber band

Markers or pencils

## Circle Time

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**Let's welcome everyone today. For each person in our class, we will say, "God welcomes *name of kid* into the family of God!" Today we meet a man whose name begins with a *B*. Something important about him also begins with *B*. Let's use the letter *B* today as we greet each other. Tell something about yourself that begins with the letter *B*. I will go first. "I have a brother who has brown hair and blue eyes, and his name is Brett." Give each kid a turn, helping those who might struggle with this.**

Hold up a leaflet, and point to the leafing tree on the green background under the lesson title. **Look at the front of our leaflet. What color do you see?** (*green*) **What picture clue do you see?** (*leafing tree*) **We've seen these things for several weeks now. When we see them, we can tell what season of the church year it is. Do you remember the name?** (*Pentecost*)

**Pentecost is the season of growing in the church. Our leaflet sign for Pentecost is a tree with leaves. Plants, trees, and flowers grow all summer and many through fall. So do we! Our gardens grow when God gives them water and sunshine. We grow in faith when God gives us Bible stories and prayers. Another way our faith grows bigger is when we tell other people about God and Jesus.**

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. Ask everyone how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

Set the mystery lunch bag where it can be seen. **When you came in today, you tried to guess what was in this bag by feeling it. In a way, this is like being blind. We know there is something there, but we cannot see it. If you were blind, how would you figure out the world?** (*through someone else's eyes, through touch, smell,*

### Spark Resources

Leaflet

### Supplies

Lunch bag with mystery object

Tear here for easy use!

sound) Ask a volunteer to look in the bag and describe what she or he sees, telling only one piece of information at a time. If the object makes a noise, let the kids hear it. Finally, reveal the object.

## Prayer Time

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**Let's pray a prayer about where we see God. In this prayer, we look in different directions and notice God all around us. There will be times in this prayer for you to add some words.**

**Creator God,**

**When we look up toward the skies we see you in** (pause for kids to respond)

**When we look to the right we see you in** (pause for kids to respond)

**When we look to the left we see you in** (pause for kids to respond)

**When we look down to the ground we see you in** (pause for kids to respond)

**We give praise and thanksgiving for seeing you all around us.**

**Amen.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

## Open the Bible (15 minutes)

### Bartimaeus Sees Storytelling

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**Today we greeted each other with lots of B words. Our Bible story today is about a blind man whose name starts with the letter B.**

**His name is Bartimaeus.** Guide the kids to say the name, "Bart-i-may-us." **We will hear that Bartimaeus was not afraid to talk to Jesus. Bartimaeus was something else that starts with the letter B, he was bold!**

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles, and invite everyone to find Bartimaeus Sees on pages 338-341. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read or ask for a volunteer to read aloud.

**People thought Bartimaeus was bold. He wasn't afraid to talk to Jesus. When Bartimaeus realized Jesus was near, he spoke up. He didn't wait for Jesus to invite him to talk. Jesus wants us to be like Bartimaeus and to speak boldly about what we believe in. When you feel really good about yourself and something you can do, you are confident. Bartimaeus was bold *and* confident. He was confident in his feelings about Jesus. He believed in Jesus and God's power. It was Bartimaeus' faith, his belief in God's power, that led to his healing. Jesus wants us to be bold and confident like Bartimaeus!**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

**People who are blind don't have the sense of sight. Sometimes their other senses become even better than most people's. This helps blind people know about the world in other ways, like through hearing or touch. What sounds could Bartimaeus hear that told him Jesus was near?** (*voices speaking Jesus' name, loud crowd noises, Jesus' voice*) **Tightly close your eyes. What can you hear? What do the sounds tell you about where you are? What is happening? The people in the room with you? What do your eyes not tell you?** Invite a volunteer to face away from the group. Give the group an action that has sounds with it. Ask the volunteer to describe what he or she thinks the group is doing. Give other volunteers the opportunity to do the same thing. **When Bartimaeus sees, how does he show his joy?** Direct the kids' attention to the pictures in the Spark Story Bible.

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

- 1. What did Bartimaeus believe Jesus could do for him?** (*heal his blindness*)
- 2. Why did Jesus say he healed Bartimaeus?** (*Bartimaeus had a strong faith. He believed in Jesus and God's power.*)
- 3. Jesus helped Bartimaeus. How can Jesus help you, your friend, or your family member?** Affirm all responses.

## Whooooo?

If kids are not already seated at tables, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

**Look at the Bible story picture on the first page of your leaflet. What do Bartimaeus's eyes look like?** (*closed, blind, can't see*) **Is this how the story begins or ends?** (*begins*) **What happened to Bartimaeus's eyes at the end of the story?** (*open, healed, he could see*) Hand out stickers to kids so they can finish the picture. **Use the large sticker to change the picture to show Bartimaeus's healed eyes. Then we'll tell the story of Jesus and Bartimaeus.** Pause to give kids time to place their stickers.

**Bartimaeus is the main character in our story today. Jesus healed him. Now Bartimaeus can see. To help you remember whom the story is about, we're going to say his name . . . lots of times. Let's practice saying, "Bartimaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaeus." Now, when I read a question, you can answer, "Bartimaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaeus." How long do you think we can hold that "aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa" sound? Let's try it!** Read the sentences on the leaflet, pausing for kids to respond each time with the longest breath they can.

To extend this activity, invite kids to say the name by going around the circle. The first child says the first syllable, "Bar," next "ti," next "ma," then have every child provide another "ay" sound until the last one says, "us!" Take turns providing the

Spark Resources  
Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

Supplies  
None

first three and last syllables so that everybody gets a turn being a stand-alone syllable as well as several “ay” sounds.

**Let’s look the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible.**

**Today’s Bible story, Bartimaeus Sees, is from the book of Mark. Mark is a Bible book about Jesus’ life. Mark wrote his book to tell people that Jesus is the Son of God.**

**Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it’s missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where? (Sees, Mark, God)** After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible memory verse from the story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

**Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Mark 10:52**

## Awesome Sight

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Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets, and hand out pencils or markers. Ask for a volunteer to read the sentences. Help with the words as needed.

**Bartimaeus’s world was dark. He had to see through other people’s eyes. Then Jesus lifted the dark from his eyes with God’s power. Bartimaeus looked with surprise and wonder at the world for the first time. Guess what we get to do? We get to draw an awesome thing that God made for us. Close your eyes and imagine you see something outside for the first time. Now open your eyes. I wonder what you will draw.**

As kids work, ask these questions: **What do you think Bartimaeus was surprised to see for the first time? What’s your favorite thing to see out the window?**

**Spark Resources**  
Leaflets

**Supplies**  
Pencils or markers

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

### Looking for Jesus

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**Let’s look at the third page of our leaflet. Bartimaeus knew Jesus was near, because he listened to the voices and sounds around him. How do we know Jesus is with us now? What reminders do we have of Jesus’ presence? When we go into church, we see many reminders of Jesus. What reminds you of Jesus in church?**

**Spark Resources**  
Leaflets

**Supplies**  
Pencils

Tear here for easy use!

**Look at the pictures on this page. How do they remind us of Jesus? Three of the items in each row are the same, but one is different. Use your eyes to find the object that is not quite the same as the others and put an X on it.** When kids have completed this activity, ask them to share which objects are different. **Nice job of using your sense of sight!**

## Guide Dog Training

**Turn to the back page of your leaflet. Over the years, people have discovered more ways to help people who are blind or visually challenged (those are both ways to describe people who can't see). Today, people who can't see can read with their fingers using Braille. Many people who are blind are also helped by guide dogs. Guide dogs are some of the best assistants for people who can't see. When Bartimaeus was alive, there were no such things as Braille and guide dogs. He was challenged even more by his blindness.** Invite volunteers to read about the training of a guide dog. **What experiences have you had with guide dogs? Whenever you see someone with a guide dog, remember that guide dogs are working dogs. If we distract them, they may forget to care for the blind person.**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
None

## I Spy Game

Seat the kids on the floor, and invite a volunteer *sight seeker* to stand behind the group. Give your Sight Seeker the empty paper towel roll, or "special vision machine," to look through. **Our Sight Seeker is the only person who can see. She (or he) is going to look through the special vision machine to find one object while the rest of us close our eyes and pretend that we can't see. Then we will raise our hands to ask questions about what the Sight Seeker sees, and the Sight Seeker will answer, giving us clues about what she sees. Let's begin. No peeking!** Pause.

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
Empty paper towel roll

**Sight Seeker, what do you see in your special vision machine?** Kids keep their eyes closed so they can't see where the "vision machine" is pointed. Call on kids with their hands raised to ask questions until one of them guesses the answer. That person becomes the next Sight Seeker.

**What do you think God notices most when God looks at our Sunday school class? What are some ways we try to see God together?**

# Send (5 minutes)

## Good-bye Time

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**Thank you for coming to class today! We learned that Bartimaeus was bold and confident. He wasn't afraid to talk to Jesus and believed that Jesus could help him. Jesus makes us bold and confident in the things we say and do. We can show how bold and confident we are in the things we do to help people or to show them we love them.**

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet, and have the kids fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

**After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week we can tell each other how we were bold and confident in the things we did.**

**When we make the sign of the cross, we remember that God is with us every moment of every day. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead or in your hand to remember God's protection for you this week. Then make the sign of the cross in a friend's palm and say, "Jesus makes me bold and confident!"** As kids leave, do the same for them and ask them to do the same for you.

## Prayer Time

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**For our prayer today, please repeat each sentence boldly after me.**

**Loving God,  
Help me to see your goodness,  
Hear your word,  
Speak of your love, and  
Boldly show others you live in me.  
Amen.**

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

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils  
Scissors

Spark Resources  
Leaflets  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None

*Tear here for easy use!*