

Bartimaeus Sees

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 10:46-52

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 21

Lesson Focus
**God gives us faith
to be bold.**

Bible Memory Verse
**Jesus said to him, "Go;
your faith has made you
well." Immediately he
regained his sight and
followed him on the way.
Mark 10:52**



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids boldly share life's surprises.	Activity Pages 	Chart paper, markers, pencils
Opening Conversation Kids share surprising events, memory verses, and Faith on the Go! experiences.	None	List from Arrival Activity, marker
Opening Prayer Kids open their eyes to all that they will learn.	None	None


Open the Bible (15 minutes)


	Spark Resources	Supplies
Bartimaeus Sees Story Kids play a game to get into the story and find Jesus.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Blindfold, pencils
Mr. Withley to the Rescue Kids share the things that make them bold.	Leaflets	Sticky notes, pencils
Healing of the Blind Rhyme Kids fill in words and arrange lines to create a rhyme.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Fun Facts Kids stick facts to their elbows and try to make a match.	Leaflets	Note cards, masking tape, pens
Create a Code Kids see boldly as they share important words from the story of Bartimaeus.	Leaflets	Pencils

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids play a game to learn the Bible Memory Verse (BMV), review the lesson, and choose a Faith on the Go! activity.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	None
Closing Prayer Kids shout a response to a prayer for boldness.	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)

Arrival Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try.

Write three words on three pieces of chart paper: *Courageous*, *Bold*, *Faithful*. Offer kids markers as they arrive and invite them to write definitions and synonyms below each word.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Chart paper

Markers

Pencils

Opening Conversation

Welcome my courageous, bold, and faithful friends! Today we'll get going with two questions, and the first person to recite last week's Bible Memory Verse (BMV) gets to choose who answers the questions first! Call on the first person who raises his or her hand. He or she can go first or pick someone else to go first. If the kid who is picked to go first can also recite the verse, then he or she can pick someone else to go. Encourage as many kids as possible to try reciting the verse.

Then ask kids to answer these two questions: **What was the most surprising thing to happen to you this week? What was the most disappointing thing to happen to you this week?** Give everyone a chance to share.

Raise your hand if you did a Faith on the Go! activity this week. Did anything surprising happen with your experience? Allow kids to share their experiences.

Look at the words on the wall. Can you think of anybody with those characteristics? Let's write names of people we know who we think fit this description. Write names of people on the paper and ask the kids to share a bit about who the person is and why they chose him or her.

Today we'll be learning about a blind man named Bartimaeus. He was courageous, bold, and faithful to God. A very surprising thing happened to Bartimaeus after he proclaimed his faith in Jesus. Jesus healed him of his blindness out of his love and compassion for Bartimaeus. Let's get into that story with our opening prayer.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

List from Arrival Activity

Marker

Opening Prayer

Place your hands over eyes for this prayer. When we say, "Amen," remove your hands and open your eyes. Wait for a few moments after kids have covered their eyes. Then pray:

**Dear Jesus,
Open our eyes to see your work in us.
Amen.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Bartimaeus Sees Story

Distribute Spark Bibles and pencils. **We're going to get into our story today by playing a little game. Before we play the game, we need to read the story. It's in the gospel of Mark. Who knows where the Gospels are? (New Testament) How many are there? (four) What are the other three? (Matthew, Luke, John)**

Look up Mark 10:46-52 on page 1115 and read through it together. **Bartimaeus was trying to get to Jesus because he had faith that Jesus could heal him. The crowd tried to get in the way of that, but Bart was bold. Jesus heard him and said, "Go; your faith has made you well."**

Choose one kid to be Bartimaeus. Use the cloth to blindfold Bartimaeus. Now set a Bible somewhere where it can be easily found in the room, such as the middle of the floor or on the edge of a table.

The goal of this game is for Bartimaeus to be bold and make it to the Bible that represents Jesus. The rest of you will be the crowd. You have to stand in place, but you'll try to get in the way of Bartimaeus by giving wrong directions or making distracting noises. If Bartimaeus touches you, then you must sit to the side and help him find the Bible by yelling out directions. When Bart finds the Bible, we'll remove the blindfold and read today's BMV, Mark 10:52.

Play multiple rounds with a different kid as Bartimaeus each time.

Mr. Withley to the Rescue

Distribute leaflets. Ask a volunteer to read Mr. Withley to the Rescue on the first page. **The kid telling the story was bold about getting the candy that was paid for, even if it meant Bif might get mad. It's one thing to be bold about candy. It's another to be bold about things like being honest, or standing up for someone, or doing the right thing when other people are doing the wrong thing. Let's think about things that you would be bold for, things that you are faithful to, things you would stand up for.** Give kids sticky notes and pencils to write ideas on and stick them on the wall. Then ask for responses to the I Wonder statements.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Blindfold
Pencils

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Sticky notes
Pencils

Healing of the Blind Rhyme

Read the directions for Healing of the Blind Rhyme on the second leaflet page. Then break into small groups to work on it. Encourage kids to use the Bibles for assistance. Once groups complete the rhyme, they can share it with each other.

Answer Key

The disciples and Jesus were followed by a crowd.

Bartimaeus started shouting; he had to be loud.

Bartimaeus was blind; it's true he could not see.

Jesus, Son of David, Have mercy on me.

Many said, "Be quiet," but still he showed no fear.

When Jesus heard the voice he said, "Call him here."

The blind man said to Jesus, "Let me see again."

"Your faith has made you well." Bartimaeus followed him.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Fun Facts

Assign one Fun Fact from the third leaflet page to each kid. Give kids two note cards each. For a smaller group, assign multiple fun facts, giving an additional two cards per fact to each kid. For a larger group, more than one kid may have the same Fun Fact.

I would like each of you to write the first half of the Fun Fact you were assigned on one card, and the second half on the other card. Look for the slash mark that divides them in half. Collect the note cards and mix them up. Now I'm going to give each of you two pieces of tape. Roll the tape in a loop with the sticky side out and put one loop on each elbow. As the kids are doing this, place the note cards face down around the room. When I say "go," you're going to try to find two cards that go together to create one fact. You'll do this by sticking your elbow against them. If you get one that doesn't fit, you can put it back down or give it to someone else. The only rule is that you can't use your hands. Go! Play till everyone has a chance to put together a fact, or at least has fun trying! When all the facts are in, have kids hold up their elbows so someone else can read the fact.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Note cards
Masking tape
Pens

Create a Code

Cracking a code is no easy task. You must be bold and unafraid to take on the challenge! Let's check out these directions and get cracking!

Read through the directions on the third page of the leaflet together. Make sure everyone understands each step before proceeding. The most difficult part may be understanding the idea of writing down the coordinates, so take a second to demonstrate what that looks like.

As codes are cracked and words are shared, ask each kid why he or she chose that word and what is significant about it.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Play a memory verse relay. Place one kid on one side of the room and the rest of the group on the other side.

As a group, say, **"Jesus said Go!"** The one kid runs across the room and tags someone, saying, **"Your faith has made you well!"** The group says, **"Immediately he regained his sight."** The tagged person says, **"And followed him on his way."** Repeat the back-and-forth as the two go back across the room, but this time the two run together and tag a third person. Then the three run across. Continue saying the verse as the group grows and grows!

Now let's try saying the entire verse together! After saying it together, look up Mark 10:52 on page 1115 and put a sticker in the margin.

Let's see if our Faith on the Go! activities on the back page are as active as that game was. Review the activities and invite each kid to choose one to do this week.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Closing Prayer

Before we close in prayer, I want each of you to share with the group one thing you learned this week. Once everyone has a chance to share, move into the closing prayer.

For our closing prayer, I'll say a line, and then you all shout, "We will be bold!"

Dear Jesus,
We know that you hear us. *(We will be bold!)*
You're always near us *(We will be bold!)*
As we share your grace *(We will be bold!)*
In each time and place. *(We will be bold!)*
Amen.

Be sure to send leaflets home with kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None