

Bartimaeus Sees

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 10:46-52


Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 21

Lesson Focus
**When we're
bold in our faith,
unexpected things
can happen.**

Bible Memory Verse
**Jesus said to him, "Go;
your faith has made you
well." Mark 10:52**



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids practice persistence to get into the room and consider relationships.	Activity Pages, Leaflets 	Pencils
Opening Conversation Kids prepare for the Bible story as they explore blindness.	Leaflets	Pencils
Opening Prayer Kids pray with their leader.	None	None

Open the Bible (20 minutes)


	Spark Resources	Supplies
Bartimaeus Sees Story Kids remember key parts of the Bible text after just one reading.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Chart paper, markers
Get in the Picture Kids write captions to a comic book strip about the story.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils
Bible Memory Verse Kids speak the verse with boldness.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils
Look It Up! Kids find Jericho on Bible maps and consider Old Testament events in the city.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils

Activate Faith (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Speaking Out Kids talk about times of boldness in their lives.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils
Newscast Kids create a short newscast based on the story of Bartimaeus.	Leaflets	Paper, pencils

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids choose a way to support people with visual impairments.	Leaflets	Pencils
Closing Prayer Kids pray a bold prayer as a group.	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: an Activity 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.

Before kids arrive, wait outside your room or meeting space. If possible, close the door. As kids arrive, tell them you need to be convinced before you'll let them in the room. See what they come up with – complaining, whining, questioning, pleading, reasoning, or asking!

Once kids are settled, distribute leaflets and invite kids to examine the Life Question, Lesson Focus, and photos on the front page. Steer the discussion toward speaking up and boldness. **What makes a person bold? Name someone who is bold. Do you know someone who is bold about her or his faith? Do you think being bold can lead to unexpected things?**

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Opening Conversation

Turn to BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) on the second leaflet page. **In a little while, I'm going to have you draw this picture in the square on the right, so take a good look now.** Allow a short time for looking at the drawing, and then pass out pencils. **I forgot to tell you that you need to copy the design with your eyes closed.** Have kids close their eyes and ask them to re-create the drawing. Compare results and then discuss: **How did your drawings turn out? What would have made this easier?**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Invite kids to take the Eye-Q Quiz on the second leaflet page to learn more about the human eye.

Answer Key

The iris is the colored part of the eye. (*True*)

The eyeball is filled with air. (*False; it is filled with fluid called "humor."*)

The cells in the eye that help us see colors are called rods. (*False; cells called cones help us see color. Rods help us see in the dark and also are used for our peripheral vision.*)

Our eyes move rapidly when we dream during rapid eye movement (REM) sleep. (*True; we usually have REM sleep about four or five times each night. That's a lot of dreaming!*)

About 160 million people in the world have visual impairments. (*True; Helen Keller International estimates that about 80 percent of blindness is preventable.*)

Invite a volunteer to read Did You Know? on the second leaflet page. **Helen Keller became very sick when she was about a year and a half old. At that time, she lost her vision and hearing. As a child she learned to communicate through fingerspelling and Braille. Throughout her life, Helen did many amazing things! She spoke boldly about people who were poor, and she found many ways to help others. What would be challenging about going to school for someone like Helen? What would be challenging to a person who was blind or deaf during Bible times?**

Opening Prayer

Kids can respond to each line in the prayer with "Help us be bold!"

Dear God,

When we see places where your good news can be shared, *(Help us be bold!)*

When we need to speak up for those in need, *(Help us be bold!)*

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (20 minutes)

Bartimaeus Sees Story

Distribute Spark Bibles. Help kids find Mark 10:46-52 on page 1115. Ask a volunteer to read the Bible story aloud. Encourage the whole group to follow along while the story is read. **Now, close your Bibles.** Challenge kids to recall the sequence of important events and quotes from the story. Make a list of the events on chart paper. Feel free to help out by asking follow-up questions addressing specific events in the story. **Why did people tell him to be quiet? Why do you think Jesus didn't answer Bartimaeus? How big do you think the crowd was?**

Once kids finish listing the events, revisit the story to see how well the kids remembered the story. Invite kids to place an I Read It sticker next to the text. They can also draw eyes in the margin near the story to remember it.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Chart paper

Markers

Get in the Picture

Look together at Get in the Picture on the third leaflet page. **These pictures show the action from the story, but the words are missing! Let's come up with captions for each scene from the story.** Kids can work in pairs to come up with captions for each image. They can refer to their Bibles, but the wording can be their own. Walk around as kids work on the words and affirm their creative ways of retelling the story. Once they finish, they can place a sticker near the story.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Bible Memory Verse

Have kids find Mark 10:52 on page 1115. Read through the Bible Memory Verse a few times using a bold voice. **“Go, your faith has made you well.”**

Encourage kids to place an I Memorized It sticker and write “Be bold!” near the verse.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

Look It Up!

Find Look It Up! on the third leaflet page. Ask a volunteer to read the instructions. Help your learners find Jericho on the map on page M16 and Joshua 6:1-14 on pages 237-238. They can put a sticker near the location and write, “Bartimaeus was bold here.”

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Activate Faith (10 minutes)

Speaking Out

Ask kids to identify a part of the story that connects to their own lives. Maybe it’s Bartimaeus in need, or the faith of Bartimaeus, or the disciples quieting him, or the miracle of healing. **When we are bold, we can speak out, even if it means some people will tell us to be quiet. Sometimes being bold leads to unexpected things.** Share a time of boldness from your own life.

Have them put their Reminds Me Of sticker in the margins, along with a note about how the story connects to their lives.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

Newscast

Distribute paper and invite kids to find Newscast on the back page of the leaflet. Support kids and offer ideas as they assign roles for their newscast. Make sure everyone has a part. Possible roles include one or more anchor people, sportscaster, weatherperson, director, or camera operator. If you have a larger group, consider having kids work in two or more groups. Have each group share their final newscasts with one another.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Paper
Pencils

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Turn to Faith on the Go! on the back page of the leaflet. Read each option aloud. If you know a way that your congregation supports members and others with visual impairments, share this information. Encourage kids to choose an idea to learn more about people with blindness and other visual impairments.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Closing Prayer

Stand together in a circle and start the prayer quietly. Repeat three times, speaking out louder and louder each time.

**Dear God,
Help us to be bold like Bartimaeus.
Amen!**

Send leaflets and a Family Page home with kids.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None