

Bartimaeus Sees

Lesson At-A-Glance


Scripture Reference
Mark 10:46-52

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 21

Lesson Focus
**Be bold and ask Jesus for
what you need.**



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Play Time Kids cut out pictures of eyes and make a collage, work on puzzles together, and create a Pentecost green tree.	Coloring Pages 	Kid-friendly magazines, paper, kid-safe scissors, glue sticks, simple puzzles, green paper of various shades, crayons
Circle Time Kids are welcomed and then discuss questions related to the story of Bartimaeus.	None	None
Prayer Time Kids close their eyes while the leader prays.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Bartimaeus Sees Storytelling Kids will hear and interact with the story of Bartimaeus.	Spark Story Bibles	None
I Can See! Kids add stickers and their own drawings to show what Bartimaeus saw when he was healed.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Markers or crayons

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Step Out Boldly Kids will trace another's foot and decorate it as a reminder to step out boldly.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Markers, bright tissue paper, kid-safe scissors, glue sticks
"B" Bold! Kids will complete a rhyme about the story by filling in the letter <i>B</i> .	Leaflets	Writing utensils (one per kid), whiteboard or chart paper, marker
What Sound Is This? Kids will close their eyes to see what they hear.	Leaflets	Blindfold, noisemakers (shakers, whistles, etc.)

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids review the lesson and close by singing a song together.	Leaflets	None
Prayer Time Kids will pray together echoing the words of the leader.	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)

Play Time

Prior to the kids' arrival, set out some simple puzzles in an area where kids can work to put them together. Welcome the kids as they arrive, inviting them to work in pairs or small groups to put the puzzles together. Encourage kids to use team work, and help each other as needed.

In another area, set out magazines, paper, kid-safe scissors, and glue sticks. Invite kids to look through the magazines, cut out pictures of eyes, and glue them to the paper to make a collage. **We need our eyes for so many things. Today's story is about someone who can't use his eyes.** As kids talk about eyes and seeing, invite them to think about and describe a tree. **You can look out a window or use your memories.** Then encourage kids to use their descriptions to create tree drawings on the green paper. **Remember that green is the color of this church season—Pentecost.** Provide copies of the Coloring Page for this lesson for kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

When Play Time is over, ask kids to help clean up and then join you in this action verse as they gather in a circle.

1-2-3 Come with me (*clap three times*)

4-5-6 Let's sit down quick (*clap three times*)

7-8-9 I think it's time (*clap three times*)

For us to sit for Circle Time!

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Kid-friendly magazines

Paper

Kid-safe scissors

Glue sticks

Simple puzzles

Green paper of various shades

Crayons

Circle Time

When all of the kids have joined your seated circle, you can begin Circle Time. **Hi, everyone! I'm so glad you're here. Did you know that each and every one of you can ask Jesus for what you need? You can! Let's see who can ask Jesus for what they need.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Start listing some basic characteristics, such as eye color, color of clothes they are wearing, whether they have pets or not, etc. of the kids in your group. As you say something that describes them, invite them to stand up. **Stand up if you are wearing socks. YOU can ask Jesus for what you need! Stand up if you have brown eyes. YOU can ask Jesus for what you need!** Continue until everybody is standing up.

When everyone is standing, lead the kids in a cheer:

I can ask Jesus for what I need. (*point to self*)

You can ask Jesus for what you need. (*point to someone else*)

We can be bold! (*place fist on hip, other fist up in air*)

And ask Jesus for what . . . we . . . need. (*nod on the beat of the last three words*)

It's wonderful to have you all here today. What are some things that you did during Play Time today? (*found pictures of eyes, created a tree, helped someone with a puzzle*) **You might be wondering what all of these things have to do with one another: eyes, trees, and helping each other. In a little while, we'll hear a Bible story about a man named Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus was blind. What does that mean?** (*He couldn't see.*) **He couldn't see a tree or a bird. But he met Jesus along the road and asked Jesus to help him see. We all need help every now and then, don't we? It's important to remember that, like Bartimaeus, we can ask Jesus for the things that we need.**

Prayer Time

Before we read our Bible story, let's pray together. Invite kids to sit with their eyes closed throughout this prayer.

Spark Resources

None

Dear Jesus,

Our eyes are closed, but not our ears.

Help us to hear you today.

Help us ask for your help when we need it.

Help us see you today and every day.

Amen.

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Bartimaeus Sees Storytelling

Before we begin our story today, I want everyone to close their eyes again and be very quiet. Give kids time to do so. Wait for 10 seconds. **What do you hear?** Allow kids to respond. **Do you hear music? A car? Other kids? Imagine you had never been able to see, you didn't know what a tree looked like, and you had never seen a bird. Now open your eyes. Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a man named Bartimaeus who had been born blind. But he called out boldly to Jesus to ask for help. Let's read to see what happened!**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Distribute copies of the Spark Story Bible. Help kids find the story of Bartimaeus Sees, found on page 338. **I need your help to tell this story.** Divide your group in half. Point to one group. **This group will play the part of Bartimaeus. You will repeat the things that Bartimaeus says.** Point to the other group. **You will play the part of the crowd, repeating everything that they say.**

Read the story aloud, inviting kids to follow along as they are able. When you get to the lines of Bartimaeus and the crowd (see below), pause, allowing the appropriate group to repeat the lines after you.

- "Jesus, please help me!" (Bartimaeus)
- "Be quiet! Stop bothering Jesus!" (the crowd)
- "Jesus, I need you to help me!" (Bartimaeus)
- "Get up! Jesus wants to talk to you." (the crowd)
- "Please help me see again." (Bartimaeus)

After the story, ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to respond to each question. **What did Bartimaeus believe Jesus could do for him?** (*help him see*) **What is something you could ask Jesus to help you with?** (*sharing, getting along with others, waiting for turns, not be afraid, trying new things, etc.*)

Let's get out our leaflets and learn more about how Bartimaeus boldly asked Jesus to help him.

I Can See!

As a group, move to tables or a similar work space. Distribute the leaflets and direct the kids' attention to the front page. **Bartimaeus was born blind and had never seen a person's face, a rock, or even the sky.**

In the story, Bartimaeus asked Jesus for what he needed—to be healed! What did our Spark Story Bible tell us were the first things that Bartimaeus saw after Jesus healed him? (*Jesus, the crowd, a bird in a tree*)

Distribute the three circle stickers, one of each to each kid. **Let's add the stickers of what Bartimaeus saw to our leaflets.** Invite kids to add the sticker of Jesus' face where indicated, and add the bird and the people from the crowd in the space above Jesus and Bartimaeus.

I wonder what other things Bartimaeus saw after Jesus healed him? Take time to hear kids' ideas, which may include a town, a road, a lake or river, more people, etc. Distribute the crayons or markers, and give kids time to add drawings of their ideas to their leaflet.

After all of the kids are done, do this simple chant and call on a kid to tell others what they drew. Encourage kids to say the chant with you.

1-2-3 Bartimaeus sees! What did Bartimaeus see? Invite kids to take turns holding up their picture and pointing out and naming one thing they drew.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Markers or crayons

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Step Out Boldly

Invite kids to flip their leaflets over to the back side. Direct their attention to the blank space at the top of the page.

Sometimes we need a little help from someone else. In the story today, Bartimaeus needed Jesus to help him, and he stood up and boldly asked Jesus for help. What does the word *bold* mean? (*brave, daring, etc.*) **The townspeople weren't too nice to Bartimaeus. They told him to be quiet and leave Jesus alone. But Bartimaeus stepped out boldly** (take a step forward and put a closed fist up in the air) **and asked Jesus for what he needed.**

Today you will practice asking for help as you ask a friend to trace your foot, and then decorate it. Give kids time to pair up, helping as necessary. Ask the groups to spread out, finding their own space to work. Distribute the markers and invite kids to trace a foot of their partner in that blank space.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Markers
Bright-colored tissue paper
Kid-safe scissors
Glue sticks

If you have carpeting on the floor, provide books or cardboard for the kids to stand on so the markers don't puncture the paper. As kids are tracing, rove the room and offer help as needed.

Now let's glue tissue paper inside our tracings. Make it bright and bold to remind us that we can step toward Jesus to ask him to help us with what we need. Distribute tissue paper, kid-safe scissors, and glue sticks. Give kids a few minutes to decorate their tracings.

Finally, let's add a sticker to remind ourselves to be bold. Hand out "Be Bold" stickers, one per kid. **This sticker says, "Be Bold!" and can help us remember to be bold like Bartimaeus and ask Jesus for what we need.** Invite kids to place stickers on or near their tracings.

"B" Bold!

The words *bold* and *Bartimaeus* begin with the same letter. What is that letter? (B) That's right! Say the words *bold* and *Bartimaeus* again, emphasizing the 'B' sound.

Would anyone like to come up here to show us how to write the letter B? Invite a kid up to the whiteboard/chart paper to draw the letter. **Yes. That's what the letter B looks like.** Draw it again in upper and lower case for kids to clearly see, and point the letters out on the page.

What are some words that start with B? (*boy, ball, bat, balloon, etc.*) **A lot of words start with the letter B! Today we're going to write the letter B on our leaflets in all of these spaces** point to the blank spaces. **When we are done, we will read what our message says.**

Allow time for kids to fill in the letter *B* in each blank. Help those who need assistance. Encourage the kids to help each other as needed, as well. After they are done, read the message with kids echoing each line. Emphasize the *B* sound in each word.

What Sound Is This?

Gather the kids in a circle on the floor. Hold up the leaflet so that all can see. Point to the Pentecost icon at the top of the page. **Right now at church we are celebrating a season called Pentecost. In this season we hear wonderful stories about Jesus and work to understand what the stories mean for us.**

Today we're going to play a game where we hear sounds from God's creation. One of us will be blindfolded and will have to guess what the sound is. Are you ready?

Ask for a volunteer who will sit in the center of the circle. Chose another kid to find an object that makes noise or to make a noise of their own, such as an animal sound. The kid in the middle guesses the sound. Continue the game, making sure that everyone who wants to, gets a chance in the middle.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Writing utensils (one per kid)
Whiteboard or chart paper
Marker

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Blindfold
Noisemakers (seed shakers,
whistles, etc.)

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Boy, oh boy! Bartimeaus was bold and was given a lot of blessings! We, too, can be bold and ask Jesus to help us when we are sick, sad, or frightened. We can ask Jesus for what we need.

Hold up the leaflet. **During the week, make sure to try the Faith on the Go! idea.** Point out the section on the leaflet. **Today we learned that we can be bold and ask Jesus for his help. Who are some people in your life that you can ask for help? In the activity for you to do at home, you will have the opportunity to help someone else. It will be fun to do with both adults and kids!**

Before we leave this week, let's sing a sending song together. Gather kids in a circle. Lead the kids in the song to the tune of "Merrily We Roll Along," using the words and actions below.

We're a happy family (*open arms wide*)

God loves you (*point at another*)

God loves me (*point at self*)

We're a happy family (*open arms wide*)

We're loved kids of God! (*put arms around each other*)

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Prayer Time

As we say our closing prayer today, please stand and make a circle and hold hands with each other. Repeat the words after me and follow my actions.

Dear God,

Help us to boldly step out (*everyone takes one step forward*)

And ask you for help with what we need. (*raise arms*)

Amen. (*gently swing arms down*)

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

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Family Pages



Supplies
None