

LESSON 3

JESUS HEALS A MAN WHO IS BLIND

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power to Heal

SCRIPTURE: Mark 10

GOD'S BIG STORY: Bartimaeus—who is blind—shouts out to Jesus from the roadside where he sits begging for money. Jesus asks what Bartimaeus needs then restores his eyesight, showing that Jesus has power to heal!

WORD OF WONDER: How great God is! We'll never completely understand him. —Job 36:26a

- Welcome Question: Would you rather be in a crowded place or a quiet space? Why?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Job 36:26a
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Prayer Mural
- Game: Blindfold Walk



INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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When I'm sick, I spend a lot of time thinking about healing. I plead to God for a quick fix to whatever illness it is this time, thank Him once I'm feeling better—and then I move on. I forget how it felt to be sick. Until the next time.

Take a moment to read Mark 10:46–52. Jesus and His disciples are leaving Jericho when they encounter Bartimaeus, a man who is blind. When he hears that Jesus is there, he calls out for healing: “Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!” (v. 47). Jesus responds and heals Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus is no longer blind, and he immediately begins following Jesus!

Would you?

When I recover from a cold, my life goes back to business as usual. I rarely make a change afterward. Sometimes my walk with Jesus looks like that too. He does something amazing, and I move on. But Jesus has something better in mind for us.

We all need healing from something, whether that is sickness, addiction, heartache, or other brokenness. The Bible gives us good news that Jesus has power to heal. Jesus' healing isn't a quick fix—it's utterly life-changing. It's an invitation to leave behind our old lives and follow Him.

What do you need healing from today? Jesus has power to heal, and He's ready for you to ask and follow Him.

—**Caroline Wiggins**

Children's Ministry Volunteer and Curriculum Intern

Wonder Ink Development Team

LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS
JESUS HEALS A MAN WHO IS BLIND

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Bartimaeus, a man who was blind, begged alongside the road to Jericho where many people passed by. He would have been viewed as an outcast because of his physical disability, and he would have depended solely on the money he received begging for his livelihood.

WHAT?

Bartimaeus cries out to Jesus, “Son of David!” (Mark 10:47). This was a Jewish title for the Messiah. When Jesus began His ministry, He read from Isaiah 61 as a declaration that the prophesy is fulfilled in Him. He is the Messiah who would recover “sight for the blind” (Luke 4:18 NIV).

WHERE?

Jericho in the Old Testament and Jericho in the New Testament are in two different locations. New Testament Jericho was near King Herod’s palace, about a mile south of Old Testament Jericho. Jesus was likely walking between the two Jerichos on a well-traveled road.

WHEN?

After Jesus healed Bartimaeus, He headed into Jerusalem and toward the climax of His mission on earth—His death and resurrection.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY:

After Bartimaeus is healed, he follows Jesus along the road to Jerusalem, where people welcome Jesus triumphantly as the One who would bring “the coming kingdom of our father David” (Mark 11:10). As Bartimaeus follows Him, Jesus literally ushers in the kingdom He has promised but in a way that few expect—through His death and resurrection.

Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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Pre-Service Connection (15-20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "I'm curious.." before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:



- What are some places large crowds gather?
- If you were in a large crowd and needed to be heard, what would you do?

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

How great God is! We'll never completely understand Him.

—Job 36:26a

Our Word of Wonder for the Now That's a Miracle! series is Job 36:26a. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **HOW GREAT**—Put one arm straight up for each word.
- **GOD IS!**—Point up.
- **WE'LL NEVER**—Cross arms back and forth in front of you.
- **COMPLETELY**—Bring both arms down from above you to your sides.
- **UNDERSTAND**—Point to your head with both hands.
- **HIM.**—Point up.
- **JOB 36:26a**—Hold your hands together in front of you, palms open, as if opening a book.

In today's story, we saw how great and powerful Jesus is when He healed a man's eyesight. Jesus can do anything! He's powerful, and He cares for us. What is something else great that Jesus has done? Allow the kids to respond. Jesus told the man that his faith made him well. Faith is believing and trusting in Jesus. Bartimaeus believed so much that he called out to Jesus loudly. We can have faith and call out to Jesus too. You can do it loudly or quietly ... or however you want! Let's practice calling out our verse in different voices.

Review the verse with the kids several times, then encourage them to say the verse in following ways:

- In the loudest voice they can
- In the quietest voice they can
- While spinning in circles
- While jumping up and down
- While dancing

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Share about a time when you celebrated God and His greatness.**
- **What does it mean to have faith in God?** (If the kids need help, offer ideas such as: trusting God, believing in Him, living for Him.)

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES:

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Mark in the Bible. Today we are reading about a man who could not see and really wanted help from Jesus. Many people tried to make him be quiet, but he did not stop calling out. Listen to hear how Jesus listened to him, showed kindness, and changed his life.

[Read God's Big Story script below from Mark 10:46–52.](#)

Jesus was walking through a town called Jericho with a big crowd. Pretend to walk in place. A man named Bartimaeus sat by the road. He could not see. Cover your eyes gently with your hands.

Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was coming. Cup your hand to your ear. He called out loudly, "Jesus, help me!" Put your hands around your mouth and call out.

Some people told Bartimaeus to be quiet. Shake your head no. But Bartimaeus called out even louder. Call out again with a big voice.

Jesus stopped. Freeze in place. Jesus asked for Bartimaeus to come to Him. Reach your hand forward.

Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted. Jesus listened carefully. Point to your ears. Bartimaeus said he wanted to see. Open your eyes wide.

Jesus said, "You can see now." Remove your hands from your eyes and smile big. Right away, Bartimaeus could see. Look around the room with excitement.

Bartimaeus followed Jesus and thanked God. Walk in place again and clap your hands.

Visual or tangible idea: Give each child a paper heart or a small paper circle. Have them hold it over their eyes at the beginning of the story and lower it when Bartimaeus can see. Explain that Jesus sees us, hears us, and cares about us.

Discussion Questions

SUPPLIES: construction paper (at least 7 colors, 1 sheet per kid), marker

RESOURCES: upbeat song from the [Now That's a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, prepare an upbeat song from the [Now That's a Miracle! Elementary Spotify playlist](#).

Select a variety of colors of sheets of construction paper (one sheet for each kid). Write numbers 1–7 on seven different colors of paper. Leave all of the other sheets of paper blank, with no number written on it. Then turn the papers upside down. Put all the papers in a large circle on the floor of your room.

Leader Tip: If your floor is slick, consider taping the paper to the ground so it stays in place. If you tape it, make sure to write the numbers on the corner of the paper so kids can see the number.

In the God's big story we heard today, we learned about how Jesus noticed a man who was blind and healed him. We're going to play a game to see what we remember from the story! Jesus paid attention to Bartimaeus and listened to him when he called out. You'll have to pay attention and notice what I'm calling out. In this game, you'll walk around the circle of papers while music plays. When the music stops, jump to the nearest sheet of paper. I'll call out a color. If you're on that color, pick up your paper and see if it has a number on the back. If it does, you'll answer the question that goes with that number. Then you'll all put your papers back, and we'll keep playing until all the questions have been answered.

Start the music and encourage the kids to walk around the circle of papers on the floor. Stop the music periodically and let the kids move to a paper. Then call out a color and encourage the kids with that color to look for a number. Whoever has that color of paper with a number on it will answer the question that corresponds with that number from the list below.

Continue playing until all questions have been correctly answered.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Who was the man Jesus helped?** (*Bartimaeus*)
2. **What was the man doing before Jesus came along?** (*sitting by the side of the road*)
3. **What did the man ask Jesus to do for him?** (*have mercy on him; help him*)
4. **How did Jesus help the man?** (*Jesus healed the man so he could see.*)

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: Prayer Mural

SUPPLIES: butcher/roll paper (5'–8' feet per small group), marker, stickers (letters, hearts, happy faces, celebration stickers.), glue sticks, reusable adhesive or mounting tape, decorative stickers (optional)

RESOURCES: [Prayer Mural Sheet \(1 / 4 kids\)](#)

Ahead of time, print the Prayer Mural Sticker Sheet printable and cut apart. You can also provide other stickers which can be used for decorating, such as letters, hearts, happy faces, celebration stickers.

How do you think it makes Jesus feel when we ask Him for help?

Let kids to respond. **He wants us to come to Him for anything we need. He loves to hear from us. In the case of Bartimaeus, Jesus heard the man call out, and Jesus called Bartimaeus to come to Him.**

What do you want to say to Jesus today? What do you want to ask Him to help you with? Is there someone in your life who needs healing?



Allow the kids to respond.

Spread out the roll paper in front of your group. Set out sticker sheets.

Jesus has the power to heal. He sees you. In this time, we're going to make a giant picture as a way to say that Jesus has the power to heal and that He hears us.

Write "Jesus Has Power to Heal" in big letters in the middle. Then give the kids stickers to decorate around the words. Display the finished mural on a wall or hallway in your children's ministry area using reusable adhesive or mounting tape.

Make It Inclusive: Consider ways you can accommodate all kids, including those who are not able to sit on the floor or at a table or this project. Fasten the mural paper to a wall at a kid's eye level where kids can stand to add stickers. Or allow children to individually add stickers to blank pieces of paper that can be added to the mural.

Active Game: Blindfold Walk

SUPPLIES: eye coverings such as blindfolds (1 per kid; optional), small objects (optional)

Leader Tip:

We're playing a game where you'll be able to imagine what it might be like to be blind like Bartimaeus was before he met Jesus.

Back then, people who were blind could not work and did not get a lot of help. They didn't have a lot of money or food. So they sat by the side of the road and begged people for money. That is what Bartimaeus was doing. When he heard Jesus coming, he shouted and asked Jesus for help. If

he could see, his whole life would change. Bartimaeus knew Jesus had the power to heal him. He trusted Jesus to change his life. To trust is to have faith.

Divide the kids into groups with a leader for each group. The leader should help kids put on blindfolds or eye coverings and then help the children form a line, placing their hands on the shoulders or elbows of the person in front of them. The leader will lead the group around the room. If you do not have eye coverings, children can simply close their eyes.

You could also make a line of kids with their arms out (to protect the blindfolded kid) and let a kid wear a blindfold and walk on her own across the room. To make it more challenging, set out small objects on the ground and challenge the person to find and pick up the objects as you call them out.

How did you feel when you couldn't see? Allow kids to answer. Why do you think Bartimaeus wanted to be healed? Allow kids to answer How do you think Bartimaeus felt when Jesus healed him? Allow the kids to answer. Jesus has the power to heal!

Make It Inclusive: Be particularly sensitive to kids in your group who are blind or have low vision. Let them know ahead of time about the story they'll be learning, so they're not surprised by it. Some kids may want to share with the group about their own experiences as a person with limited sight while others will not, so be sure to talk with them beforehand.