

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

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: My God, Always With Me
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

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WORD OF WONDER: Job 36:26a

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
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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.

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

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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

RESOURCES: Tac the Cat puppet

For this section, you can use the cat picture provided, a stuffed animal cat, or a cat hand puppet.

Leader: You may remember our friend Tac, the curious cat. He's always asking questions. He has a question for you. Are you ready?

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! I'm always curious and today I'm curious about ... whether or not I'm important.

Leader: If you're important? Of course you're important!

Tac the Cat: Sometimes I don't feel like anyone notices me.

Leader: Oh, Tac ... Of course we notice you!

Tac the Cat: Sometimes nobody pays attention to me ... my cat friends didn't even play Chase the Mouse with me yesterday!

Leader: Well, it can hurt our feelings when our friends don't play with us. You know what might make you feel better? I know someone who always notices you and cares for you—every minute!

Tac the Cat: Who is that?

Leader: Jesus! He always notices you. Jesus notices each one of us.

Tac the Cat: That's amazing! How does He notice everyone?

Leader: Jesus is so powerful that He knows everyone and knows everything about us. He cares for each of us.

Tac the Cat: That is amazing. That does make me feel better.

Leader: There are many times in the Bible where we hear about Jesus noticing people. One time, He heard a man who was blind calling out to Him, and something amazing happened. It's in our story today.

Tac the Cat: What happened? I'm curious!

Leader: We'll find out when we hear about God's big story today! We'll learn about how Jesus showed care for someone by healing him. Someone who was overlooked by others.

Tac the Cat: That sounds great! Well, I've got more exploring and thinking to do! I'm going to go and my friends and invite them to play Chase the Mouse.

Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What do you notice about the room around you right now? Allow the kids to respond. **What do you notice that makes you curious?** Allow the kids to respond. **We all notice things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how Jesus notices you and cares for you?**

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS HAS POWER TO HEAL**. Today we'll discover Jesus has power to heal!

Declaring God's Wonder

Show the **Early Childhood Declaration Slide** and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

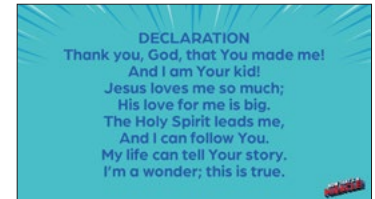
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for being our God. You know us and call us Your friends. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, help us to understand that You are the healer! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we're learning that Jesus has power to heal. Jesus cares for us and helps us! Let's sing a song to praise Him for how wonderful He is!

Play [My God, Always With Me worship videos](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (optional)

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.)*

Today we are learning about a man who would not stop calling out to Jesus because he believed Jesus could help him. Watch how Jesus hears Bartimaeus, stops everything, and changes his life. As you watch, think about what it means to trust Jesus enough to call out to Him.

Watch the God's Big Story video

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), paper lunch bags (2), glue, markers (optional)

RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Puppet Faces](#)

Ahead of time, print the God's Big Story Puppet Faces and cut out the faces. Prepare the paper bag puppets ahead of time by gluing the faces to the bottom of the paper bags so that the "chins" cover the fold on the paper bags. You can also use markers to make the bodies of the people on the bags too.

Hold up the paper bag puppet of Jesus with your hand inside the bag (like a puppet) and move the bag so it looks like it's walking.



Jesus traveled around teaching people about God's kingdom. Jesus helped a lot of people. He healed people who were sick or hurt. He did many amazing things! People heard about Jesus. His disciples—His closest followers—went with Jesus from place to place.

One day Jesus and His disciples came to a city named Jericho. Wherever Jesus went, lots of people came. Crowds came to hear Him teach and be healed. That is what happened in Jericho.

When Jesus and His disciples were leaving, they passed by a man named Bartimaeus (Bar-tih-MAY-uhs). Bartimaeus was blind—that means he could not see. He was sitting by the side of the road. Back then, people who were blind could not work and did not get a lot of help. They did not 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. Make the puppet of Bartimaeus open its mouth like the puppet is shouting.



Many people in the crowd were annoyed that Bartimaeus shouted. They told Bartimaeus to be quiet. Jesus stopped and asked His disciples to call him over. So, they did. They told Bartimaeus to cheer up and get up because Jesus called for him. Bartimaeus threw his coat off and jumped up. He went right over to Jesus. Make the puppets look like they are talking to each other.

Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51).

And Bartimaeus answered, "Teacher, I want to be able to see."

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.

Jesus responded, "Go ... your faith has healed you" (Mark 10:52). Then Bartimaeus could see! He was not blind anymore. His whole life changed! Make the Bartimaeus puppet act amazed and look around excitedly, with the paper bag mouth open wide in amazement.

Jesus noticed and cared about a man who other people did not care about. Jesus showed that He cared by letting the man see. What a miracle—an amazing sign that God was at work! Jesus is powerful. He can do anything! Jesus has power to heal. Save your puppets for the Closing Game.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS HAS POWER TO HEAL. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

After Bartimaeus is healed, he follows Jesus along the road to Jerusalem. As Jesus enters the city, people welcome Him as King by shouting "Hosanna! ... Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" (Mark 11:9–10). What they didn't realize is that Jesus was about to die and rise again. This is how He would bring God's kingdom!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking Jesus for having the power to heal. Ask them to think of someone who is sick or hurt or who needs help from Jesus.

God, thank You for always seeing and caring about us. Thank You for Your power of healing and help. Please heal those who are hurt or sick and help those who need help. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you experience Jesus' healing power in your life! May God give you great faith to believe that Jesus can do what you need Him to do. God hears you, sees you, and loves you. You're special to Him!