



Date: _____
Series: Meet the God/Man, Jesus
Winter Year 2, Lesson 41

Jesus—The Way

Take Home Point: *Jesus is the way, and you can see him work in your life. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Mark 10:46-52. Blind Bartimaeus

Key Verse: Hebrews 11:1, "Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Jesus healing Blind Bartimaeus.
- "Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see." (Hebrews 11:1)
- With faith we can see Jesus as our Savior and that he is alive right here next to us.




We will help kids feel:

- Challenged to be able to see Jesus working in a real way in their lives.
- Inspired as they listen to their shepherd describe specific ways in which Jesus has worked in his life.

We will help kids do:

- Identify things that are hard to believe and to wrestle with believing in God when one cannot see him.
- Share with shepherds and friends stories of their faith, which is certain of things not visibly seen.
- Use a math puzzle as a witnessing tool to share the concept of faith with others.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	Today's warm-up asks kids to believe what they cannot see. The challenge is verified through a simple game.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus said, "I am the Way" handout (p. 15) scissors
Large Group 	4 8-10 11-12 13-14	Overview "Meet the God/Man" Game Show: This week the game show contestants will attempt to spell the phrase, "The Way." Interactive Drama: "Blind Bartimaeus" – An actor plays Bartimaeus and the audience participates as Mark 10:46-52 is portrayed. Puppet Presentation: "Jesus – The Way" – Gordy learns to say, "Yes way" instead of "No way" to the amazing things God can do.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy game show set sport coat large placards with letters (<i>Option:</i> pieces of construction paper with letters boldly printed on them) game board- (<i>Option:</i> foam core or poster board) bell, horn, or buzzer (2-4) costume for Bartimaeus made out of rags walking cane the large group presenter will need to perform some type of special trick during the puppet dialogue
Small Group Application 	5-7	Kids are given the solution to finding all the squares in the puzzle. They are encouraged to use this puzzle as a way to lead others to see Jesus is the Way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus said, "I am the Way" handout per child scissors

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Today's lesson introduces Jesus as the Way. Typically, the warm-up time is very clear in presenting the theme for the day. Today and throughout the series, however, the warm-up must be much more subtle in stating the day's theme. The reason for this is that the large group presentation will be in a game show format. Contestants will be trying to guess the theme of the day. Therefore, today we do not want to blatantly mention beforehand that Jesus is the Way. Even if this is not clearly spoken, the kids will be involved in a warm-up activity related to the topic.

The warm-up time is very simple. It is arranged around a conversation asking the kids to consider those things that are hard to believe. To help this conversation, show the attached handout, "Jesus said, 'I am the Way.'" From one of the extra photocopies, cut out the square that is divided into 16 smaller squares. Make sure no writing is attached to this sheet of paper. As well, cut out the three squares that are on the other half of the page.

Here is the trick. Out of the once larger square it appears that there are only 16 squares that can be found. The truth is that there are actually 30 squares. There are obviously 16 one-inch squares. There are also nine two-inch squares. (To find these, count one in each corner, one in the middle of each edge, and one in the middle of the square.) There are four three-inch squares in each corner. Finally, there is one four-inch square—the entire square.

During opening warm-up do **not** show the kids how to solve the puzzle. Simply show them the 16 square puzzle and challenge their ability to see. You will use the other three squares to demonstrate the solution during small group application.

First, begin warm-up time by choosing a child from the group and make the following claim:

I believe (child's name) cannot take his shoes off by himself. Does that sound hard to believe? Who believes it is true?

Listen carefully to my words again. I believe (child's name) cannot take his shoes off by himself. Who believes that? Who would like to see it to be true?

Okay, (child's name), take your shoes off by yourself. I bet you can't do it.

While the child takes off his shoes, you take off your shoes at the same time. Thus, the child did not take his shoes off by himself. He took his shoes off along with you.

Let me show you another example of something that may be hard to believe unless you see it.

Show the kids the cutout that has 16 one-inch squares.

How many squares do you see on this sheet of paper? Does everyone see sixteen? Would you believe me if I told you there are more? Can anyone find more squares?

Would you believe me if I told you that there are twenty? Would you believe me if I said that there were twenty-four? Twenty-six? Thirty?

There are thirty squares there. I will show you how to solve this puzzle when we come back from large group. Set the puzzle aside.

What are some things that are hard for you to believe unless you see that they are true? Allow some time for thought and discussion.

Are there some things that are hard to believe about God especially since you cannot see him? Is it hard to believe that God is all-powerful? Is it hard to believe that God is holy and just (which means he does punish sin)?

The Bible says that faith is being certain of things we cannot see. Today let's pray that we will have faith to be certain about things that we may have a hard time believing. We can be certain of things that we may not be able to see.

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

“Meet the God/Man” Game Show: This week the game show contestants will attempt to spell the phrase “The Way.”

Interactive Drama: “Blind Bartimaeus” –An actor plays Bartimaeus and the audience participates as Mark 10:46-52 is portrayed.

Puppet Presentation: “Jesus – The Way” – Gordy learns to say, “Yes way” instead of “No way” to the amazing things God can do.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Mark 10:46-52 in their Bibles.

Where was Bartimaeus when he saw Jesus? What did he shout? What did it mean? *(Mark 10:46-47. He was sitting by the road. Bartimaeus shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" He thought Jesus was the promised Messiah. He trusted Jesus.)*

When told to be quiet, what did Bartimaeus do? *(Mark 10:48. He shouted even louder.)*

When Jesus called him, what did he ask Bartimaeus? *(Mark 10:51. "What do you want me to do for you?")*

Jesus healed Bartimaeus and explained how he was made well. How did Jesus say Bartimaeus was healed? *(Mark 10:52. "Your faith has made you well.")*

What did Bartimaeus do after he could see? *(Mark 10:52. He followed Jesus on the road.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What do you think Bartimaeus thought about Jesus after he was healed? *(He was probably all the more sure that Jesus was the promised Messiah. He knew Jesus was interested in him.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Today is a day of telling faith stories. It begins by using the handout sheet.

Pass out a *Jesus said, "I am the Way"* sheet to each child, and let the children cut the sheet in half along the line. Then have them cut out the three squares that will help them find 30 squares in the puzzle. Say:

When you first saw these squares, how many squares could you find? Did you only find sixteen? Did you believe me when I told you there were more? Sometimes it is hard to believe what you cannot see. But after I show you, you can know for sure.

Using the three different sized squares, show the kids how there are 30 squares in this puzzle.

Do you think Blind Bartimaeus believed for sure that Jesus was the special God/Man who was the way for him to be healed? Yes. After he was healed, he certainly knew. Even beforehand, he knew that Jesus could help him. We, too, need to believe that Jesus can help us.

**The Bible says in Hebrews 11:1, “*Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see.*”
Jesus is the way, and you can see him work in your life.*

Have the kids close their eyes.

Here is a picture you can put in your mind.

You know that Jesus came truly as God but was born as a man. His mission was to go to the cross and die for our sins so he could be raised again to life. Now that Jesus has paid the price for our sins, he is alive and wants to be right next to you anywhere you are. Do you really believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins?

Wait for the kids’ answers.

Do you believe that Jesus has risen and that he is here right now? Wait for answers. If you believe Jesus is here right now and he works in your life, you can start seeing how he is working in very special ways.

At this point, I would like to tell you a special story about how I have seen Jesus working in my life this last week...

Share from your own experience how you know that Jesus is truly risen, alive, and working in your life. Talk about a special life change, an answer to a prayer, or a personal miracle. As you share your story, some of the children might want to share their stories as well. Encourage this as everyone listens. Every child should *not* be forced to share a story since it would not be a realistic expectation in some children’s lives. Reiterate: ****Jesus is the way, and you can see him work in your life.***

As you conclude, explain more about the students' handouts. This is designed so that a child can share this puzzle with another friend. While explaining the solution to the puzzle, the child can point out that Jesus is the way to salvation. Tell the kids they should pray before and after they share the puzzle that their friend would trust Christ as Savior.

Closing Prayer:

Especially thank God for our faith stories and our ability to trust Jesus as the Way, even if we cannot see him right next to us. Do not forget to pray for friends to also meet Jesus as the Way.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

“Meet the God/Man Game Show”

The large group format for the “Meet the God/Man” series is a game show. The large group presenter is the game show host and Gordy is an assistant who ad-libs comments during the game show. Immediately after the game show, Gordy helps introduce the topic discussed that day. He does this with a brief scripted dialog, in which he presents a typical view of a third grade boy.

The more creative the set is for this game show, the more fun it can be for adults and children alike. In advance, gather adults to help with special props or decor. The large group presenter needs to have a bright or colorful sport coat or something to serve as a game show host costume. This will help the kids know when he is functioning as a game show host and when he is presenting the Bible event.

Throughout the series, large placards with letters will be necessary to make the mystery word and provide visual effect for the game. Today’s mystery words are “the way.” The God/man, Jesus, is “the way.” Six placards with the letters spelling “the way” need to be available. Number the letters like below. As contestants answer questions, these letters are attached or turned over on the board or the wall. Be creative in your own facility as to how these letters can be posted. Foam core or poster board might be excellent backing.

The game format operates as follows:

The official beginning comes with the kids singing the “God/Man” theme song or a song of your choice that enhances the theme. It will be used throughout the series. To receive your copy of the music, go to http://www.awaken.nu/music_godman.php You can download the mp3 file (sample) for free or purchase a CD (includes trax and demo) for \$5.00, plus shipping and handling. Sheet music is \$3.00 plus shipping and handling.

Gordy then introduces the game show host. The game show host welcomes all of the contestants to the game “Who Is the God/Man?” (A game show sign would be helpful.) They would then randomly select contestants from the ping-pong ball container. Two boys and two girls should be selected to represent the team of each gender. Give the children the option of picking someone near them to substitute for them if they do not want to come up and be part of the show. This will compensate for kids who are shy.

The game show is conducted before the Bible event is read. Kids are guessing the answers, but then are better prepared to hear the main points of the Bible reading that is read after the game show.

The game show host will read a question and the contestants will beep in with a bell, a horn, or a buzzer. Whoever beeps first gets to answer the question. If they beep in before the question is completely asked, the host will not tell them the rest of the

question. If they answer the question correctly, they get a chance to look at one of the letters to be placed on the board. They will have five seconds to guess what the word is that describes who our God/Man is. If they fail to answer the question correctly after beeping in, the other team can answer the question following an additional clue. If that team correctly answers, then they will have five seconds to guess the descriptor for the God/Man. If neither team correctly answers the question, the letter is still revealed for the clue though no one is allowed to guess the word.

Typically, the kids will guess the word before all of the letters are given. Whichever team does this, wins the game. It might be interesting to keep a weekly tally of who is doing the best job. Nonetheless, it is still fun and helpful to complete the clues even after the word has been guessed. The remaining clues are given to Gordy so the questions can quickly be covered.

Clue Sheet
“Meet the God/Man” Game
Mark10:46-52

T - H - E W - A - Y
6 2 3 4 1 5

For letter number one, can you answer the following? Last week Jesus said, “Who doesn’t receive the kingdom of God as a _____ will never enter.”

- A. perfect person**
- B. child**
- C. teacher**

(Answer: B. child)

You win the letter A! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number two, can you tell me the following? In last week’s lesson, Jesus’ disciples were trying to stop some people from coming to see Jesus. Who were they trying to stop?

- A. traveling salesmen**
- B. children**
- C. people wanting to take their peanut butter sandwiches**

(Answer: B. children)

You win the letter H! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number three, can you tell me the following? In a lesson a couple of weeks ago, Jesus said, "If you want to be greatest you must become a _____ of all."

- A. *servant***
- B. *master***
- C. *smartest person***

(Answer: A. *servant*)

You win the letter E! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number four, can you tell me the following? In today's lesson, Jesus will heal a blind man. What do you think his name is?

- A. *Homer***
- B. *Bartimaeus***
- C. *Fred***

(Answer: B. *Bartimaeus*)

You win the letter W! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number five, can you guess the following? In today's lesson, when Jesus heals the blind man, he says that it is because of the blind man's _____.

- A. *love***
- B. *faith***
- C. *peanut butter sandwiches***

(Answer: B. *faith*)

You win the letter Y! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

For letter number six, can you tell me the following? Having faith makes us certain of things we cannot see but we know are _____.

- A. *real***
- B. *make believe***
- C. *just ideas***

(Answer: A. *real*)

You win the letter T! You have five seconds to guess what the God/Man is.

Blind Bartimaeus

Interactive Drama

The Bible event is told as an interactive drama. Sitting in the midst of the kids will be a person playing Blind Bartimaeus. He should be dressed in rags and holding some type of walking cane as he acts out the part of Blind Bartimaeus surrounded by the crowd. Since he cannot see, he asks his friends (the kids next to him) what is going on. Blind Bartimaeus enters immediately after the “Meet the God/Man” game and during the offering.

Blind Bartimaeus will really have an impact when he stands to shout, **“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”** He should really shout this. Shepherds sitting around Bartimaeus should be prompted to tell him to pipe down. These shepherds should even encourage the kids to get Bartimaeus to be quiet.

Before the narrator reads the following Bible script, he should recruit a volunteer from the audience to act as Jesus. Quickly costume the recruit and prompt several children to surround him to depict the great crowd that gathered around Jesus.

Mark 10:46-52:

Narrator: *“Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus, his disciples, and many people were leaving Jericho, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. When he heard that Jesus from Nazareth was passing by...”*

(To the Jesus character.) **Okay, Jesus, you’re passing by with all the people. It was quite a commotion. Everyone was talking about this being Jesus of Nazareth. Can we hear that?**

“When he heard that Jesus from Nazareth was passing by, he began to shout...”

Bartimaeus: *(Stands to shout.)* **“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”**

Narrator: *“The people told him to be quiet.”*

(Shepherds tell Bartimaeus to be quiet.)

Narrator: *“But he shouted even louder...”*

Bartimaeus: *(Shouting louder.)* **“Son of David, have mercy on me!”**

Narrator: *“Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him!’ They called the blind man and told him, ‘Cheer up! Get up! He’s calling you.’ The blind man threw off his coat, jumped up, and went to Jesus.”*

Bartimaeus stumbles to the front.

Narrator: *“Jesus asked him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’”*

Prompt Jesus character to say:

Jesus: *What do you want me to do for you?*

Narrator: *“The blind man said...”*

Bartimaeus: “Teacher, I want to see.”

Narrator: *“Jesus told him, ‘Go, your faith has made you well.’ At once he could see again, and he followed Jesus on the road.”*

The characters are dismissed except for Blind Bartimaeus.

Narrator: When Bartimaeus was blind, he could still see with eyes of faith. He believed that Jesus was the Messiah, or the Promised One. When he called Jesus “the Son of David” that was a special title that was only used to refer to the Promised One. Bartimaeus believed Jesus was the God/Man.

Even though Bartimaeus could not see Jesus with his eyes, he could see Jesus with his heart. This is called faith. Faith is believing in something you cannot see, something that may even seem impossible. For example, we cannot see Jesus with our eyes right now, but is Jesus here with us? Yes! We believe Jesus is here, and that is like seeing Jesus with our hearts.

Were we there to see Jesus die on the cross with our eyes? No. Do we believe Jesus did this? Yes! That is faith.

Because of faith, we can know that our sins are forgiven and Jesus is the way to that forgiveness. He is the way to a friendship with God. He is even the way to miracles in our lives. We need to trust him just like Bartimaeus did.

Jesus – The Way

Puppet Presentation

Mr. King, the presenter, will have some type of special trick to use during this puppet dialogue. It needs to be a trick that you have to see to believe. It is best that the large group presenter comes up with a trick he feels comfortable performing effectively on stage. Here are some suggestions:

- **I bet I can place an empty soda bottle neck-end down on the center of a dollar bill and then remove that bill without touching the bottle or making it fall over!** *To do so, roll up the dollar bill beginning at one end. As the rolled up part meets the bottle, the bottle will slide on the bill until it slides off. Use both hands to roll slowly.*
- **I bet I can drop this egg from six feet in the air on to this hard surface and it won't break.** *Measuring seven feet off the ground and dropping the egg from that point, explain: The egg dropped six feet without breaking, but it broke after the seventh foot.*

Mr. King: Boys and girls, let's see if Gordy learned about faith. Remember, faith is believing something even if you cannot see it. Should we call him?

Kids chant, "Gordy! Gordy! Gordy!"

Gordy: Hi, kids!

Mr. King: Hi, Gordy. We're talking about faith today. I want to see if you have faith in what I can do. Gordy, I bet I can... (explain the chosen trick).

Gordy: No way!

Mr. King: Yes way.

Gordy: I don't believe it.

Mr. King: Here. Let me show you. (*Performs trick.*)

Gordy: Wow! I thought, "No way!"

Mr. King: There is a way, but you did not have faith to believe unless you saw it first.

Gordy: Well, I didn't know that you could do it.

Mr. King: Now do you believe it?

Gordy: Sure! I saw you do it.

Mr. King: There are some things that you have to believe even if you can't see them.

Gordy: Like what?

Mr. King: Like the things about God. Even if you cannot see him, you can still believe he is there. That's faith.

Gordy: Okay.

Mr. King: And you can believe in Jesus. You can believe he gave his life for you. Because of that, you can believe you will be forgiven and be friends with God forever. Do you believe that?

Gordy: Yes!

Mr. King: Then you have faith. Instead of saying "no way," you can say...

Gordy: Yes way!

Mr. King: And when you think about Blind Bartimaeus trusting Jesus and Jesus doing a miracle for him, instead of saying "no way" you would say...

Gordy: Yes way!

Mr. King: Do you believe God could work in a special way in your life for whatever you need?

Gordy: Yes way!

Mr. King: Now you have it. I think you have faith. Why don't you close us in prayer.

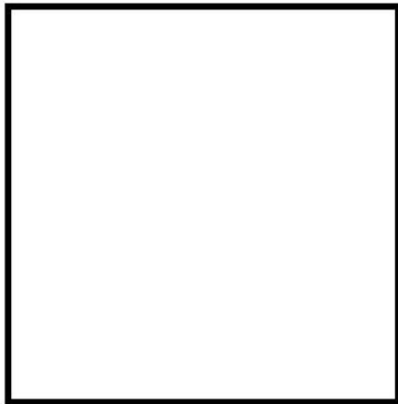
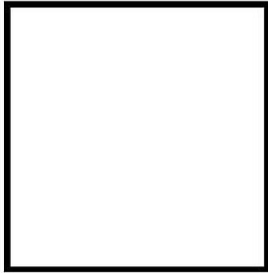
Gordy: No way!

Mr. King: Gordy...

Gordy: Just kidding.

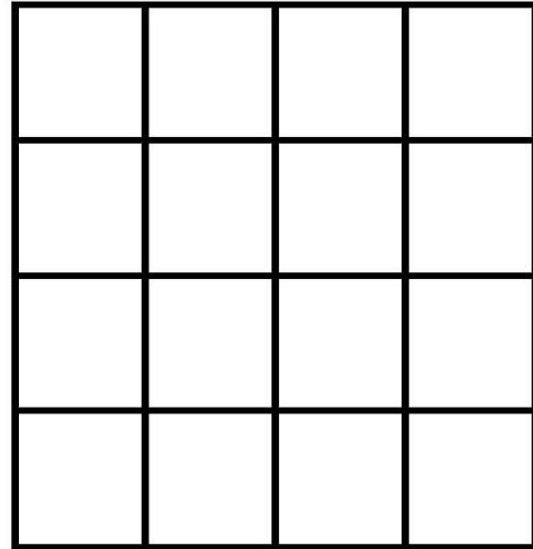
Dear Jesus, you are the God/Man. Thank you for being "The Way."
We can trust you and have faith in you. If we ever doubt you and say "no way", help us to say "yes way" instead. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Cut squares to help find 30 squares!



Cut

Jesus said, “I am the Way!”



Can you see the way to count 30 squares?

**Can you see the way Jesus will be with
you when you trust in Him?**