



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Series: Jesus Takes Care of Me  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 40

# Blind Bartimaeus

**Bible Event:** Mark 10:46-52

**Take Home Point:** \*WHEN I PRAY – *Jesus listens to me.*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** Jesus loves to hear and answer our prayers. Talk to him.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn that Jesus really does hear all of our prayers. Whether we pray out loud, with others silently, by ourselves, standing up or on our knees, Jesus always listens. Kids can take comfort in the fact that Jesus is always there for us. Kids will take home the point: **WHEN I PRAY – *Jesus listens to me.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

**Video Suggestion:** Your choice.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

## Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: Simple Storytelling

Reading a Bible story or telling a Bible event can be done effectively with expressive voice and dramatic gestures.

Use masking tape on the floor to divide the children into three groups as they listen to the event. Each group will be assigned a phrase to repeat throughout the storytelling.

- Group one will repeat the phrase "Jesus, Son of David."
- Group two will repeat "Have mercy on me" and
- Group three will say, "I want to see."

*It may help to have each group learn and practice their lines before starting the presentation.*

*Optional:* Have the children sitting down with their eyes closed as if they were blind.

**Presenter:** Today, we're going to hear the Bible event about an amazing miracle Jesus did! You are all going to help tell the story by saying your lines when I point to you. Are you ready?

A long time ago, Jesus and his disciples were in a city named Jericho. They, and a group of their followers, were leaving the city. When they reached the edge of town, there was a blind man named Bartimaeus sitting on the side of the road begging for money. He

**heard the large crowd passing by and asked someone why so many people were walking by. One of the people told him that it was Jesus!**

**Bartimaeus had heard about Jesus and knew who he was. He immediately began to shout....**

Have group one shout their lines, followed by group two. Repeat this pattern three times. Assure group three that their time is coming!

**Some of the people around Bartimaeus couldn't believe that he was shouting and making such a scene. They told him to be quiet. But do you know what Bartimaeus did? He shouted even louder!**

Have groups one and two repeat their lines again.

**When Jesus heard him, he stopped and told his friends to go get Bartimaeus. They called out to Bartimaeus and said, "Cheer up! On your feet! Jesus is calling you!"**

**Bartimaeus was so excited! He threw his coat aside and jumped to his feet! His friends led him to Jesus. When he got there, Jesus said, "What do you want me to do for you?" And what do you think Bartimaeus wanted?**

Let group three yell their response. After they repeat their lines several times, let the three groups all say their lines in order a few times.

**As soon as Bartimaeus asked to see, Jesus said, "Go! Your faith has healed you!" Exactly at that moment, Bartimaeus was able to see! He was so thankful that immediately he jumped up and started following Jesus.**

**What an awesome story about Jesus! Even though Bartimaeus wasn't quietly praying, like you and I do, he was still asking Jesus for help. Jesus always hears our prayers, whether they're long or short, quiet or loud. Remember: *\*WHEN I PRAY – Jesus listens to me.***

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones. During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

**Snack Zone:** Provide each child with several mini Oreo cookies. Explain that the dark colored outside represents Bartimaeus not being able to see. Have the children remove one side of a cookie and explain that when we ask Jesus for help, we will all see the light.

**Drama Zone:** Help children practice saying the Lord's Prayer.

**Puppet Zone:** Let the children use puppets to describe problems they are having and how they can pray to Jesus about them.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the story of Blind Bartimaeus from today's Bible event.

**Craft Zone:** Provide one sheet of any color cardstock for each child. Have them trace and cut out each of their hands from the cardstock "mitten-style." (Trace hands with fingers touching, not spread apart.) Staple the hands together at the wrist, so they appear to be 'praying' hands that can open and close. Place a pre-made label on the inside of the hands saying **\*WHEN I PRAY – Jesus listens to me**. Color or decorate the hands if desired.

**Play Zone:** Provide blindfolds and many objects of different shapes and textures for children to guess. Possible objects: blocks, toys, rocks, cotton, sandpaper, play dough

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Blind Bartimaeus. Provide Braille books or Bibles if available.

**Music Zone:** Play recordings of various sounds for children to guess.

**Coloring Zone:** "Blind Bartimaeus" coloring page



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

## Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

## Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

**Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out questioning the large group presenter about why Bartimaeus didn't get in trouble for what he did. The presenter doesn't understand. Bartimaeus asked Jesus for help – why should he have gotten in trouble for that?

Bubba knows today's event and he knows that Bartimaeus was yelling at Jesus! He was misbehaving! Bubba isn't allowed to yell at Jesus. Everyone knows that when you pray to Jesus you're supposed to bow your head and fold your hands and be quiet. Why was Bartimaeus yelling?

The presenter goes on to discuss that there are many, many ways to pray to Jesus. Bowing your head and folding your hands is just one way. The presenter invites the kids to name different ways to pray. (*Possibilities: out loud, in a group, quietly, alone, silently, with eyes closed, looking up at heaven, during the day, at night, before eating, when you're sad, when you're happy, even shouting*)

The presenter concludes by explaining that no matter which way we pray, Jesus always hears us! So, Bartimaeus wasn't misbehaving, he was just asking Jesus for help out loud. And that's okay, sometimes. Remember: **\*WHEN I PRAY – Jesus listens to me.**

## Prayer Time:

**Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

## "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

## **Blessing:**

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish with bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross your hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## **Song of Sending:**

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## **Closing Zones:**

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- Masking tape

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- mini Oreo cookies

### *Craft:*

- any color card stock or pre-cut hand-shapes
- scissors
- stapler
- markers or crayons
- pre-made label “WHEN I PRAY – *Jesus listens to me*”

### *Play:*

- blindfolds
- possible objects: blocks, toys, rocks, cotton, sandpaper, play dough

### *Quiet Reading:*

- basket of books
- Braille Bibles or books, if available

### *Music:*

- recorded sounds

### *Puppet:*

- various puppets

### *Felt:*

- materials to reenact the story of blind Bartimaeus

### *Coloring page*

- “Blind Bartimaeus”

## *Closing Worship:*

- Bubba, the puppet

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books