



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 42

Healing of the Blind Man

Take Home Point: *Jesus spiritually opens our eyes to see the truth. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 9:1-41

Key Verse: John 8:12b, Jesus spoke... "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of how Jesus opened the blind man's eyes.
- Spiritual blindness is not recognizing the truth about who Jesus is. Walking in such spiritual darkness happens when we believe the lies of Satan.
- Jesus opens our eyes to see spiritual truths. The most important spiritual truth is that Jesus is the Savior, the light of the world.

We will help kids feel:

- Concerned about wanting to walk in spiritual darkness or following the lies of the devil.
- Assured that through faith in Christ, their spiritual eyes have been opened and they can see the truth.

We will help kids do:

- Identify a time of physical darkness when they lost their way.
- Identify certain lies of the enemy that keep people in spiritual darkness.

Kingdom Quest Year 4 - Lesson 42 - 1

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p>Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes)</p> 	3	<p>Kids look inside a dark shoebox and describe a time they were lost in a dark place and what it felt like.</p> <p>NOTE: Lesson 48 & 49 recommend the purchase of easy-to-do Easter crafts. Order your choice of product from www.ssw.com or www.OrientalTrading.com.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a small cardboard box, like a shoebox—one per small group
<p>Large Group (20-30 minutes)</p> 	4 7 9 11	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “The Blind Learns to See”—Gordy has the experience of feeling blind in a dark closet because he tried to trick his sister.</p> <p>Video: <i>The Gospel of John</i>---John 9.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “The Blind Learns to See”—Gordy learns that spiritual blindness is worse than physical blindness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shoebox for Gordy • road construction workers outfit • a sign printed with, “Don’t be spiritually blind or believe Satan’s lies,” (p. 13) on front. On back it says, “Instead, believe in Jesus. He’ll open your spiritual _____ (eyes).” (p. 14) • video: DVD <i>Gospel of John</i>, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003 (order from www.visualbible.com) • optional: squirt gun with water
<p>Small Group Application (20-25 minutes)</p> 	4	<p>Kids walk through an obstacle course, blindfolded but guided by someone else’s direction, as an analogy that Jesus can spiritually guide us when we follow him.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chairs, tape or newspapers to make an obstacle course • blindfolds and tissue

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.

Supplies: a small cardboard box (shoebox)

In advance, cut a 4" strip along the edge of a shoebox lid so that a child can press his face tightly against this opening, look into the box and see complete darkness.

To begin activity, have kids take turns looking into the box. Say:

As you look into the dark box, think about a time when you were in a dark place... a place that was hard to see where you were going or where you didn't know which way to go. How did it feel?

Let kids share stories about times they were in the dark as the box is passed around. Afterwards say:

What do you think you would miss the most if all you could see was darkness?

Today we are going to talk about spiritual darkness and spiritual sight. Just like one's eyes need light to see what is in front them, our hearts need God's light to see what is truth and what is light. If we don't practice the truth, then we will live in darkness. We won't know which way to go....we won't know God's way. Jesus opens our spiritual eyes so that we can see the truth.

People can be physically blind and unable to see or know direction—so the same is true about people spiritually. When people can't see the truth or don't choose to follow the truth, they walk in spiritual darkness. This is like being spiritually blind. Just like Jesus can open the eyes of blind men, he can help us spiritually see the truth.

Today we will see how **Jesus spiritually opens our eyes to see the truth.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



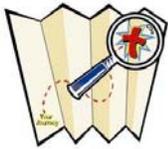
Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “The Blind Learns to See”—Gordy has the experience of feeling blind in a dark closet because he tried to trick his sister.

Video: *The Gospel of John---John 9.*

Puppet Conclusion: “The Blind Learns to See”—Gordy finds out that God opens our spiritual eyes to see the truth. God provided Jesus to be our Savior.

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?/ Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids refer to John 9 in their Bibles.

As Jesus and his disciples walked along, they saw a blind man. In John 9:3, why did Jesus say this man was born blind? (So that God could show what he could do for him.)

How did Jesus heal the man of his blindness? (Jesus spit on the ground and mixed the spit with dirt. Then he smeared it on the man's eyes and told him, “Wash it off in the pool of Siloam.”)

The Pharisees had a hard time believing that Jesus healed this man. What things did they do to show they didn't believe Jesus did this? (Twice they questioned the man healed from blindness by asking him who Jesus was. They questioned the blind man's parents to see if he had really been blind since birth. They threw the man out of the synagogue when he said Jesus must have come from God. John 9:33.)

How did the man healed of blindness show he believed Jesus was the Son of Man? *(In John 9:32-33 he said, “Since the beginning of time, no one has ever heard of anyone giving sight to a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he couldn’t do anything like that.” He stood up to the Pharisees even knowing he would be kicked out of the synagogue. He confessed to Jesus that he believed him to be the Son of Man. John 9:35-38.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Do you think this miracle proves Jesus is God’s Son?

What other proof does the Bible give?

Application Activity:

Supplies: chairs, tape, newspapers, blindfolds and tissue

Set up a small obstacle course within your space or even in a hallway. Use chairs or tape on the floor or even crumbled paper to make obstacles. Use blindfolds or have the kids completely cover their eyes with tissue and then their hands. Have kids close their eyes, guaranteeing they can’t peek. Give one child at a time the challenge of walking through the obstacle course while another person gives verbal cues.

After several kids have had a turn, discuss:

What made this game hard? *(They could not see where they were going. Someone was not giving clear directions.)*

What made it easy? *(Someone told clear directions or was easily understood.)*

How is this like having spiritual eyesight?

When we don’t depend on our physical eyes, we still know where to go and what to do, because someone we trust is showing us. That someone is Jesus. Though he doesn’t speak right in our ears and we don’t hear him like we hear another person, he does speak to our hearts when we read the Bible and think about it.

Today’s key verse from John 8:12b says, “Jesus spoke... ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have a life filled with light and will never live in the dark.’”

Remember in Warm-Up time what it felt like to be in a physically dark place? Can you think of a time when you felt like you were in a spiritually dark place? Maybe you felt yucky inside because you were

tempted to do something you shouldn't. Or maybe you believed a lie from Satan. Can you tell about a time like this?

When we come to trust Jesus as our Savior and then follow him as our leader, we spiritually see the things to avoid and also see the ways he wants us to go.

What are some of the things Jesus asks you to avoid? (*Acts of disobedience, bad friendships, wrong choices, etc.*)

Why do you think we can trust what Jesus says in his word about following him? What did he do for us? (*Jesus loved us so much that he gave his whole life by dying on the cross. He looks out for our best interest as he gives us spiritual eyesight to follow him.*)

Remember, *Jesus spiritually opens our eyes to see the truth.

Closing prayer:

Thank God for the power to spiritually open our eyes. Thank him that we can trust him because his word is truth and shines light into our spiritually dark places. Pray for all kids to walk in the light of Jesus' love and truth.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Signs on Believers' Highway Series

The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.

The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.

An additional fun event to this sketch is liquid road-patch (a squirt gun with water). The presenter can use it to playfully squirt the audience when the two contestants answer correctly. Otherwise, if the contestants don't answer correctly, they get squirted.

This series uses "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible. Order from www.visualbible.com.

Supplies: shoebox to put on Gordy, a sign printed with, "Don't be spiritually blind or believe Satan's lies," on front. On back it says, "Instead, believe in Jesus. He'll open your spiritual _____ (eyes)."

The Blind Learns to See Puppet Presentation

Presenter: Shall we call Gordy, kids?

Kids call for Gordy...Gordy, Gordy, Gordy.

Gordy comes out with a box on his head.

Presenter: So, Gordy, it looks like you brought the box from your small group. What's this about?

Gordy: Well, it reminds me about a story I was telling in my small group. I was completely blind.

Presenter: You were?

Gordy: Yeah, kind of... sort of.

Presenter: Well, tell us about it.

Gordy: Sure, it all happened with my sister, Gerdy. She was making fun of me because I didn't do very well on my spelling test.

Presenter: I'm sorry, Gordy. That wasn't nice.

Gordy: That's okay. I thought I'd get even.

Presenter: Gordy, that's not the best thing...

Gordy: So, I went and got a toad.

Presenter: A toad?

Gordy: Yes, she hates toads.

Presenter: What did you do?

Gordy: I put it in this box.

Presenter: That doesn't sound too bad.

Gordy: Then I hid in her closet.

Presenter: Ahh-ohh.

Gordy: I knew she would come and hang up her coat. So I sat down and waited.

Presenter: So what happened?

Gordy: I waited.

Presenter: What happened after that?

Gordy: I waited.

Presenter: Well...

Gordy: Until I fell asleep.

Presenter: Did you wake up?

Gordy: Sure. As soon as I felt the toad crawling down my shirt.

Presenter: What did you do?

Gordy: I screamed and stood up.

Presenter: Yeah... then?

Gordy: But it was dark and I forgot where I was.

Presenter: Oh, no.

Gordy: I hit my head on a shelf and all the toys came crashing down. I just wanted out of the darkness.

Presenter: Then what?

Gordy: Gerdy opened the door. She screamed when she saw the mess.

Presenter: Oh, my.

Gordy: Then she screamed when the toad hopped out of the mess.

Presenter: Then ...

Gordy: My mom came in and Gerdy screamed again... just to make sure mom heard her. So I got in trouble like I always do.

Presenter: So, Gordy, do you feel bad for trying to tease your sister and be mean to her?

Gordy: Yeah, now I do. I was spooked in that dark closet, especially when I didn't know which way to go and the toad was jumping around me. I felt like I was blind.

Presenter: Well, Gordy, today we are talking about another kind of blindness. Jesus opened a man's eyes that had been physically blind since birth. The eyes right there in his head couldn't see. But sometimes, people are spiritually blind. That is when they don't see or obey God's truth. Spiritual eyes aren't like the eyes in your head. This is a way to describe how we know in our hearts that what God says is true. Jesus had the power to open the blind man's eyes and he has the power to help our spiritual eyes to see. **Jesus spiritually opens our eyes to see the truth.*

Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003. Show the clip covering John 9:1-41.

Signs Along Believers' Highway

John 9:1-41

The presenter holds the sign that says, *"Don't be spiritually blind or believe Satan's lies."* Back: *"Instead, believe in Jesus. He'll open your spiritual _____ (eyes)."* Be sure to hold the sign so that only the front is seen until the back is needed for the game.

Presenter: I need some volunteers to get in the car and get ready to drive.

Choose one boy, one girl and an adult to come forward and sit in the car. Have them come up onstage and arrange them so that kids are in front driving and the shepherd is in the back. Say:

On Believers' Highway, kids can drive just as well as adults, because we are all growing in our spiritual journey, learning to trust Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. So, buckle your seat belts and let's go for a ride.

Let's ask our people in the car a couple of questions.

- 1. How long had the man been blind?** (*Since his birth.*)
- 2. How did Jesus heal the man of his blindness?** (*Jesus spit on the ground and mixed the spit with dirt. Then he smeared it on the man's eyes and told him, "Wash it off in the pool of Siloam."*)
- 3. What did the Pharisees think about Jesus when the man healed of blindness was brought before them?** (*Some thought Jesus was a sinner because he healed the man on the Sabbath day; others didn't think a sinner could do such a miracle.*)
- 4. Who did the man healed of blindness believe Jesus to be?** (*The Son of Man.*)
- 5. Why did Jesus say that the Pharisees were blind?** (*Because they did not believe him to be the Son of God even though he did such miracles.*)

Are you ready to figure out the missing words on the back of the sign? The front of the sign says, "Don't be spiritually blind or believe Satan's lies." The back says, "Instead, believe in Jesus. He'll open your spiritual _____ (eyes)."

Let contestants guess the word to fill in the blank.

We don't want to be spiritually blind like the Pharisees who refused to see that Jesus was God's Son. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, he opens our eyes to see his truth.

The Blind Learns to See

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: So, Gordy, what did you think about Jesus helping that blindman see?

Gordy: I thought that was cool. I'd hate to be blind. Especially if I was locked in the closet with no lights, with toads crawling down my shirt. I wouldn't like it at all.

Presenter: Being blind would be awful, wouldn't it? But there is another kind of blindness we are talking about today. It's not just blindness in the eyes of your head, a physical blindness; it's also being spiritually blind.

Gordy: Does that mean your spiritual eyes can't see?

Presenter: Yes. That's exactly what it means. Spiritual eyes are in our heart and help us see spiritual truth. But when our heart is dark and without light, truth cannot be seen.

Gordy: What truth?

Presenter: That Jesus is who he said he is.

Gordy: You mean that Jesus is God's Son?

Presenter: Yes. He's not just God's Son. He is also our Savior.

Gordy: So if people don't see that, they are spiritually blind.

Presenter: They live in darkness.

Gordy: That would be worse than having toads all over you!

Presenter: I guess so. But when God opens their eyes to the truth and their need of a Savior, all they need to do is receive him and believe.

Gordy: You mean believe in Jesus as their Savior?

Presenter: Yes. When they trust him as their Savior, he opens their spiritual eyes and they can see the truth about God. They can see that God loves us, that he gave his Son Jesus for us, and that we can live for him. He even helps us not to do mean things to our sister.

Gordy: *(Looking sheepishly.)* You mean like my hiding in the closet and wanting to scare my sister?

Presenter: Yes, Gordy.

Gordy: Yeah, I'm sorry about that.

Presenter: God has opened your eyes to see your wrong and repent. He's opened your spiritual eyes to know God's truth and do what he wants.

Gordy: That is the best way, isn't it?

Presenter: It sure is, Gordy. Would you close us in prayer?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus. Please forgive me for the times I've teased my sister. Thank you that he opened my spiritual eyes to see the truth and trust him as my Savior. I pray all the kids will trust him. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Don't be
spiritually blind
or believe
Satan's lies.**

**Instead, believe
in Jesus. He'll
open your
spiritual (eyes).**