



Date: _____
Series: Lookin' for a Leader
Fall Year 3, Lesson 24

Have Faith in God's Word

Primary Scripture: Luke 18:35-42. Blind Bartimaeus

Key Verse: Luke 18:42, "Jesus told him, 'Receive your sight! Your faith has made you well.'"

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Our kids need to have confidence that God's word is relevant to them. Kids need to know that God speaks to them in his word, and his word gives direction and guidance for their lives. God's word also gives kids power to be connected to God as they trust in Jesus as their Savior and follow him.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus is God's word made flesh. He gave his life for us. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we receive God's full message of his love.

Jesus in us: As we open our lives to God and his word, Jesus promises to dwell with us, to lead us, and to guide us.

Jesus through us: Jesus will work through us that we, too, might proclaim God's word and encourage others.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies needed: a rubber costume ear from a novelty store

Place the rubber ear over your heart.

Do you know what this ear over my heart might mean? It means that we hear not just with our ears, but we also hear with our hearts. When we hear with our hearts we are listening to what God might say to us. God's word is always true and through it, God gives us guidance. God's word also tells us about Jesus and what he has done for us.

Luke 18:42 tells us the story of what Jesus told a blind man. Jesus said, "Receive your sight! Your faith has made you well."

The blind man trusted in Jesus and he was not disappointed. God's word also tells us how the blind man was healed immediately, and he followed Jesus, praising God. All the people saw this and they, too, praised God.

Today in worship you should hear God speak to you in his word. His word says Jesus truly is God's Son who came to this world for you. Do you trust in him? Do you follow him? If so, you will be like the blind man who was healed and you will be filled with joy. You will also worship him and give him your praises.

Let's do that now! Just like the Bible says in Luke 18:43, the other people saw what Jesus had done for the blind man and they, too, praised God. Let's all praise God together!

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies needed: blindfold

Let's stop and listen to God for a moment.

Have a volunteer come forward for a demonstration. Put the blindfold on the volunteer and say:

The Bible says that sin sometimes blinds us. Because of sin, we cannot clearly see the right way to walk. How do you think we can get rid of sin? God can get rid of it for us. God took all the sin of the world and put it on his Son, Jesus. If we trust in Jesus as our Savior, he takes our sin away.

It is important that we stop and tell God about the sin in our lives that blinds us. Let's close our eyes very tightly now and talk to God about those things. Let's be quiet and listen to hear what things we should remember to pray for so that God forgives us. He will help us see the right things to do for him.

After a quiet time of personal confession, announce the forgiveness of sin and the fact that Jesus said he is the light of the world.

Anyone who believes in Jesus will not walk in darkness but have the light of life – just like the light has been restored to the volunteer's eyes.

Take off his/her blindfold.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or you may want help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

As kids bring their offerings forward, talk about how their offerings will help other people see the truth of Jesus so they will no longer live in the blindness of sin. Talk about the current mission project.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“Balls and Blindfolds”

Supplies needed: blindfolds (one per group of four kids), multiple balls, masking tape

In advance, sporadically place balls throughout the room. Mark a starting line with masking tape.

Divide the kids into groups of four. Give one blindfold to each group. Make sure one child in each group is well blindfolded.

Hint: Stuffing a facial tissue between each eye and the blindfold will help guarantee that the blindfolded child can't see.

Challenge the blindfolded child to walk from one side of the room to the other through an obstacle course of multiple balls on the floor. The only way this can be accomplished is if the other team members verbally direct the blindfolded child through the course. The team must stay behind the starting line.

If the blindfolded child touches or moves any of the balls, he/she will take the blindfold off and return to the group. Another person from that group is then given a chance to maneuver through the course with the blindfold on.

The learning point reminds the kids of faith.

We need to listen to God for direction in our lives so that we do not bump into obstacles. But there are many other voices out there trying to influence us – “Go here! Do this! Don't do that!” Sometimes it's hard to tell what voice to listen to.

That is why it is so important to know the Bible. God's word tells us what to believe, how to think, what to say, how to act. It says in Psalm 119:11 (NIV), "*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*"

When we study God's word so well that we have parts of it memorized, it's like we've "hidden it in our hearts." Then God's word will come to mind when we need it, to help us make right choices. And most important of all, God's word will help us remember that no matter what, God loves us and forgives us when we believe in Jesus as our Savior.

This is a good time to ask kids if they know any Bible words or verses from memory. If they do, have a few recite them. It's also an opportunity for you to model this by reciting a verse or two that you have memorized. Explain why the passage(s) are helpful in your faith walk.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies needed: The Story Keepers A.D. 64, "Ready, Aim, Fire!"

Show the video (21.42 minutes) from *The Story keepers A.D. 64, "Ready, Aim, Fire!"* Available on the Internet with the key words "The Story Keepers A.D. 64."

Summary of video:

This video gives a brief account of Jesus inviting the children to come to him, healing the man with the withered hand, and healing blind Bartimaeus. All of these events are examples of God's invitation to us and our response of faith. The video's plot reinforces the theme of a humble heart and how God can use us for his victory.

Application:

Ask questions as time allows, reinforcing the theme of the three Bible events depicted in the video, emphasizing our need to have God's word guide us, and free us from the blindness of sin.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have a person from your church give a testimony of how his/her faith in Jesus made him/her well from the sin in her life.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chairs:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

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:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- rubber costume ear from a novelty store

The Power of the Cross:

- blindfold

Learning Game:

- masking tape
- multiple balls
- one blindfold per group of four kids

Bible Reading:

- *The Story Keepers A.D. 64*, "Ready, Aim, Fire!" produced by Shepherd Ltd., 1996. Available on the Internet with the key words "The Story Keepers A.D. 64"

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