Preschool–Grade 6

Blind Bartimaeus

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Have faith in Jesus and don't give up, even when others tell you to stop. Then follow Him.
Bible passage: Mark 10:46–52. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way." *Mark 10:52 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Hear the Call (5–10 minutes)

Choose one child to be the "listener" and have them stand in the middle of the room. Everyone else walks around talking, like a busy crowd on a road. Secretly tap one child to be the "caller." The caller says, "Over here!" softly at first, then a little louder every few seconds. As soon as the listener hears it, they stand still and point to the caller. Play a few rounds with new players. Ask: *Was it hard to be heard over the crowd? What did the caller have to do?* Say: "Today we will meet a man who called louder when the crowd told him to be quiet, and Jesus stood still."

2. Bible story: Thy Faith Hath Made Thee Whole (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Mark 10. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

By the highway side. Jesus and His disciples came to **Jericho**. **Look up Mark 10:46.** As Jesus went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the **highway side** (the side of the road) **begging**, asking people to give him money or food to live on. Say: "Bartimaeus was blind: his eyes could not see. That was not his fault, and God loved him. The Bible gives us his name and even his father's name."

Have mercy on me. Look up Mark 10:47. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me." **Mercy** means kindness and help that we don't earn. **Son of David** was a name for the King God promised would come from King David's family, and Jesus was born into David's family line (Matthew 1:1). Bartimaeus could not see Jesus, but he knew who Jesus was.

He cried the more. Look up Mark 10:48. Many **charged him that he should hold his peace**: they told him sharply to be quiet. But he cried "the more a great deal," much louder: "Thou Son of David, have mercy on me."

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Jesus stood still. Look up Mark 10:49. Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. The people called the blind man, saying, "Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee." **Be of good comfort** means cheer up and don't be afraid. **Look up Mark 10:50.** Casting away his **garment**, his outer coat, he rose and came to Jesus.

What wilt thou? Look up Mark 10:51. Jesus asked him, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" (What do you want Me to do for you?) The blind man said, "Lord, that I might receive my sight."

Followed Jesus in the way. Look up Mark 10:52. Jesus said, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole." **Made thee whole** means made you well. **Immediately** he received his sight, and he followed Jesus **in the way**, on the road. Jesus told him he could go his way, and Bartimaeus chose to go Jesus' way!

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Many people told Bartimaeus to be quiet (Mark 10:48). Why do you think he kept calling instead of giving up?
2. Bartimaeus called Jesus "Son of David" (10:47). What does that show he believed about Jesus?
3. Jesus stood still for one man calling from the side of the road (10:49). What does that show about how Jesus cares for people?
4. Bartimaeus threw off his garment, rose and came to Jesus (10:50). What does that show about how eager he was?
5. Jesus said, "Go thy way," but Bartimaeus followed Jesus (10:52). What does following Jesus look like for you?

Recall questions

1. What was the name of Bartimaeus's father? *(Timaeus, Mark 10:46)*
2. Which city was Jesus leaving? *(Jericho, 10:46)*
3. What question did Jesus ask Bartimaeus? *("What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" 10:51)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **thy** means your, **made thee whole** means made you well, **immediately** means right away, and **in the way** means on the road. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Bartimaeus cried out for mercy, and Jesus heard him. We all need God's mercy. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: pick one thing to keep praying about every day, and don't give up. Then look for one way to follow Jesus by doing what He says.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Mark 10:46: Who was with Jesus as He went out of Jericho? *(His disciples and a great number of people)*
2. Mark 10:46: What was Bartimaeus doing by the highway side? *(Begging)*
3. Mark 10:47: What did Bartimaeus hear? *(That it was Jesus of Nazareth)*
4. Mark 10:48: What did many tell him to do? *(Hold his peace, be quiet)*
5. Mark 10:49: What did the people say to the blind man? *("Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee")*
6. Mark 10:50: What did Bartimaeus throw away? *(His garment)*
7. Mark 10:51: What did Bartimaeus ask for? *("Lord, that I might receive my sight")*
8. Mark 10:52: What did Jesus say made him whole? *(His faith: "thy faith hath made thee whole")*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus hears us when we call on Him, and that He stops for us. Help us trust You and keep praying, even when it's hard, and help us follow Jesus in the way every day. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

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