Preschool–Grade 6

Blind Bartimaeus

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus hears me when I call on Him.
Bible passage: Mark 10:46–52. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "thy faith hath made thee whole" *Mark 10:52 (KJV)*. The old words mean: **thy** is your, **faith** is trusting Jesus, and **made thee whole** means made you well.
You need: a Bible, a basket of bright, colorful things (toys, fruit, colored blocks), a cloth to cover the basket, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 10. Cover the basket with the cloth.

1. Opening game: What Do You See? (5 minutes)

Sit in a circle with the covered basket. Lift the cloth and take out one thing at a time. Ask: "What do you see? What color is it?" Let each child hold something. Say: "God gave us eyes to see all these colors! Today we will hear a true story about a man whose eyes could not see, and what Jesus did for him."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 10. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

A man named Bartimaeus sat by the road (Mark 10:46). *(Sit down on the floor.)*
His eyes could not see. He was blind (10:46). *(Cover your eyes gently with your hands.)*
He heard that Jesus was there (10:47). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*
He called out, "Jesus, have mercy on me!" (10:47). *(Hands around your mouth.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus, help me!"
People said, "Be quiet!" (10:48). *(Finger on your lips: shh!)*
But he called out even louder (10:48). *(Hands around your mouth, louder!)*
Jesus stood still. Jesus called him (10:49). *(Stand very still.)*
Bartimaeus threw off his coat and got up (10:50). *(Pretend to toss off a coat. Jump up!)*
Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do?" (10:51). *(Hands open.)*
"Lord, I want to see!" (10:51). *(Point to your eyes.)*
Jesus said, "Your faith made you well" (10:52). *(Hand on your heart.)*
Right away, he could see (10:52)! *(Uncover your eyes and look all around.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus hears me!"
He followed Jesus down the road (10:52). *(Walk in place.)*

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who did Bartimaeus call to? *(Jesus, Mark 10:47)*
2. Did he stop when people said, "Be quiet"? *(No! He called louder, 10:48)*
3. What did Jesus do for him? *(Jesus made him see, 10:52)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'thy faith hath made thee whole.' That means, 'Your faith made you well.'" Teach the motion: point up to Jesus on "faith," then open your hands wide on "whole." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Mark 10:52" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: Things I See (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a road and something bright they can see, like the sun. While they color, ask: "What did Bartimaeus want? Who made him see?" Kids who finish early can take turns picking something from the basket and telling what color it is.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for hearing me.
Thank You for my eyes. Help me follow You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving. If they get wiggly, do the "louder" and "Jump up!" motions again. Covering the eyes is only for a moment and always gentle; no blindfolds. If a child knows someone who cannot see, say kindly that God loves that person very much. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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