

Blind Bartimaeus

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Real faith calls on Jesus and won't be silenced, and it ends in following Him.

Bible passage: Mark 10:46–52. Students read it out loud themselves.

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)* and "The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous:" *Psalms 146:8 (KJV)*

You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.

Before class: read Mark 10:35–52 and Psalm 146:8. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses.

1. Opening game: Would You Keep Going? (5–10 minutes)

Read each situation and let students vote with a thumb up (keep going) or a thumb sideways (it would be hard): 1) You bow your head to pray at lunch and someone laughs. 2) You keep asking God about something for weeks and nothing seems to change. 3) You invite a friend to church and they say no twice. 4) You ask a question in class and someone rolls their eyes. After each, ask: *What makes people go quiet? What would help you keep going?* Say: "Today we will read about a man who was told to be quiet and got louder."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: Mark 10:46–52. Students take turns, a verse or two each. Old words in this passage:

- **highway side** (10:46): the side of the road; **begging**: asking people for money or food to live on
- **Jesus of Nazareth** (10:47): Jesus, who grew up in the town of Nazareth
- **Son of David** (10:47): a name for the promised King from David's family (Matthew 1:1)
- **have mercy on me** (10:47): show me kindness and help I can't earn
- **charged him that he should hold his peace** (10:48): told him sharply to be quiet
- **cried the more a great deal** (10:48): called out much louder
- **be of good comfort** (10:49): cheer up, take courage; **he calleth thee**: he is calling you
- **casting away his garment** (10:50): throwing off his outer coat
- **What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?** (10:51): What do you want Me to do for you?
- **made thee whole** (10:52): made you well; **in the way** (10:52): on the road



Look closer. Point out these details with the class:

- **He saw who Jesus was.** The crowd said "Jesus of Nazareth"; Bartimaeus cried, "Jesus, thou Son of David" (10:47), the promised King. The man who could not see understood who Jesus is. Jesus said Himself, "I am the root and the offspring of David" (Revelation 22:16): the root, because He is the God who made David; the offspring, because He was born into David's family as a man.
- **The same question, two answers.** Read Mark 10:36. Just before this, James and John came to Jesus, and He asked them, "What would ye that I should do for you?" They asked for places of honor (10:37). Jesus asked Bartimaeus almost the same question (10:51), and he asked for mercy and sight.
- **Jesus came to do this.** Jesus had read in Nazareth that He was sent for "recovering of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18), and Psalm 146:8 says, "The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind." When Jesus opened Bartimaeus's eyes, the LORD was doing it.
- **Go thy way, or His way?** Jesus said, "Go thy way" (10:52). Bartimaeus was free to go anywhere. He followed Jesus in the way.

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Many told Bartimaeus to hold his peace (10:48). What "crowds" try to quiet our faith today, and what does it take to keep calling on Jesus?
2. Bartimaeus couldn't see Jesus, yet he called Him "Son of David." What does it mean to see who Jesus is with faith?
3. Jesus stood still for one beggar by the road (10:49). What does that tell you about how Jesus sees people others ignore?
4. Compare the requests in Mark 10:37 and 10:51. If Jesus asked you, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?", what would you honestly ask?
5. Bartimaeus cast away his garment and rose (10:50). What might you need to leave behind to come to Jesus?
6. Jesus said, "Go thy way," and Bartimaeus followed Him (10:52). What is the difference between getting something from Jesus and following Him?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words: **thy** means your; **made thee whole** means made you well; **immediately** means right away; **in the way** means on the road. In Psalm 146:8, **openeth** means opens, **raiseth them that are bowed down** means lifts up people who are bent low with trouble, and **loveth the righteous** means loves those who live right with Him.

Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Mark 10:52 this week; keep working on Psalm 146:8 next week too.



5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "Bartimaeus asked for mercy, and Jesus gave it. We all need God's mercy. God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."

Pray with the students, 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: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. When have I gone quiet about Jesus because of what others might think?
2. If Jesus asked me, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?", what would I ask Him?
3. Write a short prayer asking for faith that keeps calling on Jesus and a heart that follows Him in the way.

If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: keep praying about the thing you wrote in question 2, every day. Do one thing that shows you are following Jesus, even if someone tells you to stop.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You open the eyes of the blind and that Jesus stands still for people others pass by. Give us faith that won't be silenced and hearts that follow You in the way. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks why Matthew 20:30 tells of two blind men: Matthew says two blind men sat by the way side; Mark tells us the name of one of them, Bartimaeus. Both are true, and Mark tells his story. **Talk about blindness kindly:** being blind was not Bartimaeus's fault, and God loves people who cannot see just as much as anyone.