Preschool–Grade 6

# Blind Bartimaeus

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

**Main point:** Have faith in Jesus and don't give up. Jesus hears us when we call on 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, 6 paper strips, a marker, masking tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Make a long masking-tape "highway" on the floor. Put bookmarks in your Bible at Mark 10:47 and Mark 10:52.

## 1. Opening game: Can You Hear Me? (5 minutes)

Stand on the far side of the room. The class is the "crowd": they talk and make noise all together. One child at a time calls your name, first in a soft voice. Pretend you can't hear. The child calls again, louder, and then louder still, until you stop, stand still and say, "I hear you! Come here!" Give everyone a turn who wants one. Ask: *If the crowd is loud, do you give up or call louder?* Say: "Today we will meet a man who kept calling to Jesus and would not give up."

## 2. Bible story: Bartimaeus Calls to Jesus (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 10, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Jesus came to a city called **Jericho**. When He went out of the city, His disciples and a great number of people walked with Him (Mark 10:46). By the side of the road sat a man named **Bartimaeus**, the son of Timaeus. Bartimaeus was **blind**. Say: "That means his eyes could not see." He sat by the **highway side**, the side of the road, **begging** (10:46). Say: "Begging means asking people to give him money or food to live on."

Bartimaeus heard that it was **Jesus of Nazareth** going by. So he began to cry out, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have **mercy** on me" (10:47). Say: "**Mercy** means kindness and help. He was saying, 'Jesus, please be kind to me and help me!' And **Son of David** means Jesus is the King God promised would come from King David's family (Matthew 1:1)."

Many people told him to **hold his peace**, which means be quiet (10:48)! Did Bartimaeus give up? No! The Bible says "he cried the more a great deal." That means he called out even louder: "Thou Son of David, have mercy on me" (10:48).


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*The story continues:* Jesus **stood still**, which means He stopped walking, and He told them to call the blind man (10:49). The people said to Bartimaeus, "Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee" (10:49). Say: "That means: 'Cheer up! Get up! Jesus is calling you!'"

What did Bartimaeus do? He threw off his **garment**, his coat, got up and came to Jesus (10:50)!

Jesus asked him, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" Say: "That means, 'What do you want Me to do for you?'" Bartimaeus said, "Lord, that I might receive my sight" (10:51). Say: "He was saying, 'Lord, I want to see!'"

**Read Mark 10:52 from your Bible:** "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." Say: "**Faith** means believing and trusting Jesus. **Made thee whole** means made you well. **Immediately** means right away. Bartimaeus could see! And the very first thing he did was follow Jesus down the road."

## 3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where was Bartimaeus sitting? *(By the highway side, the side of the road, near Jericho, Mark 10:46)*
2. What did Bartimaeus cry out? *("Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me," 10:47)*
3. What did he do when people told him to be quiet? *(He cried out even louder, 10:48)*
4. What did Jesus do? *(He stood still and told them to call him, 10:49)*
5. What did Bartimaeus do after he could see? *(He followed Jesus in the way, 10:52)*

## 4. Memory verse: Follow the Verse game (5 minutes)

Tape the 6 strips along the floor beside the masking-tape highway, in order: *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.* Explain the old words: **thy** means your, **made thee whole** means made you well, and **immediately** means right away. Walk along the highway together and read each strip as you pass it. Then take one strip away and walk and read again. Keep taking one strip away each time until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.


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## 5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Bartimaeus asked Jesus for mercy, and he did not give up. We all need God's mercy, because everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. God loves you very much. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.*
**This week:** when you pray, don't give up. Keep praying and trusting Jesus, like Bartimaeus kept calling. And follow Jesus by doing what He says.

## 6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **blind Bartimaeus word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/blind-bartimaeus-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/blind-bartimaeus-craft), or **Follow in the Way:** the kids sit along the masking-tape highway like Bartimaeus by the road. When you say, "Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee!" they all jump up. Then they line up behind you and follow you along the highway, doing what you do (hop, tiptoe, take giant steps). When you say, "Jesus stood still," everyone freezes. Let different children be the leader.

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus hears us when we call on Him. Help us trust You and never give up, and help us follow Jesus every day like Bartimaeus did. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Talk about blindness kindly:** Bartimaeus was blind, but that was not his fault, and God loved him. Some people today cannot see, and God loves them just as much. If a child knows someone who is blind, let them share kindly.


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