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**June's B.I.G. Idea**

We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

**June's Bible Verse**

*Praise our God! His deeds are wonderful, too marvelous to describe. Psalm 150:2, CEV*

**June's B.I.G. Theme**

Great Are the Works of the Lord

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## Lesson 4 ★ Bartimaeus

### Today's Bible Story

Mark 10:46-52

### Three B.I.G. (Believe In God) Truths:

- ★ God is a great big God.
- ★ God loves us with a great big love.
- ★ We are part of God's great big world.

### Objectives

- ★ Children will hear the Bible story about Jesus healing Bartimaeus.
- ★ Children will express their thanks for God's great gifts, including the gift of sight.

Bartimaeus was like the Little Engine That Could—he did not give up when others thought he should. Bartimaeus was a man who was blind. His only “employment” was to sit beside the gates of the city and beg for money. He placed his cloak on the ground so people could throw coins into it. The fact that Bartimaeus could not see, though, did not mean he could not hear. Bartimaeus paid attention to what he heard, and he had heard about Jesus!

When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was coming through Jericho, he wanted to meet Jesus. It must have sounded like a parade as Jesus came down the road. People were shouting to one another and running to tell their friends that Jesus was on his way. So Bartimaeus started shouting too. He cried out: “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And what did the people do? They told Bartimaeus

to be quiet. But Bartimaeus did not care what the people said to him. He just yelled even louder!

Jesus never turns away when someone calls to him. When Jesus heard Bartimaeus call, he stood still and said, “Call him here.” So the people called to Bartimaeus, “Cheer up! On your feet! He is calling you!” Bartimaeus threw off his cloak. He sprang to his feet and came to Jesus. “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked. It may seem like a silly question to us, but not to Jesus, and not to Bartimaeus. So Bartimaeus answered confidently, “Teacher, I want to see.”

From the beginning we know that Bartimaeus recognized Jesus. He called him the “Son of David” and “Teacher.” He believed Jesus had the power to help and heal. Although physically blind, Bartimaeus could see Jesus with the eyes of his heart. Jesus said to Bartimaeus, “Your faith has made you well.” Immediately Bartimaeus could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God.

Once again, we have a story that deals with disabilities. Be very aware of the children in your class. Even if you do not have a child who has vision impairment of any degree, one of the children may know someone who does. We never want to equate impairment with sin or punishment. It is difficult to explain why God does not heal everyone, but sometimes we just have to live with the questions. Assure the children that God loves and cares for everyone, including those who cannot see.

## Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)

Welcome!	✓
Please Touch Collage	✓
An A-maze-ing Bible Story	
Transition Time	✓

## . . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)

Hear the Bible Story	✓
Sound Off	✓
Picture Time	✓
Finger Foods	

## . . . Into Life (15 minutes)

Thank You, God, For Eyes	✓
Closing Worship	



**TimeSaver**  
Activities that require little or no planning and only basic supplies.



**EcoFriendly**  
Activities that encourage responsible earth stewardship by providing options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

## DVD Summary: Picture Time

Mr. Z and Ms. Lucy are using a telescope to study the skies and to admire God's world. Bongo calls for the Bible verse, and the children say the verse together. This week's Picture Time takes your children on a visual journey as it tells the story of Bartimaeus, the blind beggar who was healed by Jesus. Your children are encouraged to identify the sounds on the DVD before the images appear. This Picture Time helps your kids appreciate the amazing gift of sight, as they see what a wonderful world God has created.



## The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

### Welcome!

**Supplies:** Stickers, Attendance Chart, Leader—inside front cover, DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ Welcome the children as they arrive. Give each child an eyes **Sticker** to place on the **Attendance Chart**. As the child attaches the **Sticker**, comment on the color of his or her eyes.
- ★ **Ask:** What do our eyes help us do? (see)
- ★ **Say:** Today our Bible story is about a man named Bartimaeus who could not see. Then Bartimaeus met Jesus. Jesus helped Bartimaeus see. It was a miracle! Miracles show us the power of God.
- ★ **Say:** Do you remember our Bible verse for this month? It says: *"Praise our God! His deeds are wonderful, too marvelous to describe"* (Psalm 150:2, CEV).
- ★ Remind the children how to sign the Bible verse (**DVD; Leader—inside front cover**).

**Live B.i.G.** We praise God for the wonderful things God has done.

### Please Touch Collage

**Supplies:** construction paper; gluesticks; textured materials such as sandpaper, cotton balls, fabric scraps, small cardboard scraps, craft sticks, and foam pieces

- Do** ★ Give each child a piece of construction paper.
- ★ Let the children choose from the materials you provided and then glue the materials onto their construction paper to make texture collages.
- ★ Encourage the children to feel the different textures on the collages.
- ★ Have the children close their eyes and feel the textures.
- ★ **Ask:** What are you touching? Is it soft? Is it hard? Is it prickly? Is it hard to tell what you are touching when you have your eyes closed?
- ★ **Say:** Today our Bible story is about a man named Bartimaeus who could not see. He had to touch things to know what they were. Then Bartimaeus met Jesus. Jesus helped Bartimaeus see. It was a miracle!

**Live B.i.G.** Miracles show us the power of God. We thank God for miracles.

## An A-maze-ing Bible Story

**Supplies:** **Leader—page 46**, plastic sunglasses (party packs available at discount stores or party supply stores), dark duct tape or petroleum jelly, crayons

### Prepare

- ★ Provide a pair of inexpensive sunglasses for each child.
- ★ Cover the lenses of each pair of glasses with duct tape so the children cannot see, or spread petroleum jelly on the lenses to make the children's vision blurry.
- ★ Photocopy "Help Bartimaeus Get to Jesus" (**Leader—page 46**) for each child.

### Do

- ★ Have each child put on a pair of sunglasses that hamper his or her vision.
- ★ Have the children do various exercises with the glasses on their eyes: jumping jacks, touching their toes, arm circles.
- ★ Have the children take off their glasses and do the same exercises.
- ★ **Say:** How did it feel to do the exercises without being able to see? Was it hard? Was it scary? Which way was easier for you?
- ★ Give each child a copy of "Help Bartimaeus Get to Jesus" (**Leader—page 46**).
- ★ Point out Bartimaeus.
- ★ **Say:** Our Bible story today is about a man named Bartimaeus who could not see. Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was coming through his town. He called and called to Jesus, and Jesus came to him!
- ★ Have the children put the sunglasses back on.
- ★ **Say:** Trace the path from Bartimaeus to Jesus.
- ★ When the children protest that they cannot do the task without being able to see, let them take off the sunglasses and use a crayon to trace the path from Jesus to Bartimaeus.
- ★ **Say:** When Bartimaeus got to Jesus, Jesus made Bartimaeus see.

**Live B.I.G.** Using God's power to heal was one way Jesus loved and cared for others.

## Transition Time

- Do** ★ Sing the song "Praise Our God!" as the children march around the room. The song is sung to the tune of "Hot Cross Buns."

Praise our God!  
Praise our God!  
See us march around our room  
And praise our God!

- ★ Quietly sing the song again, changing *march* to *tiptoe*.
- ★ Lead the children to your storytelling area and have them sit down.

**Live B.I.G.** We praise God for God's wonderful deeds.



**The B.i.G. Idea**  
We believe that  
miracles show us  
the power of God.

*Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.*

## Hear the Bible Story

**Supplies:** Bible, Kids' Book, Leader—page 45

### Prepare

- ★ Punch out the Bartimaeus head (**Kids' Book**) for each child.

### Do

- ★ Open your Bible to Mark 10:46-52.
- ★ **Say:** Our Bible story today comes from the Gospel of Mark. It is about Jesus and a man named Bartimaeus.
- ★ Give each child the Bartimaeus head.
- ★ Help each child fold the flap so that the closed eyes are showing.
- ★ Show the children how to hold the puppets' heads and turn the flap back over so that the open eyes will show.
- ★ **Say:** Help me tell the story of Jesus and Bartimaeus. Let's turn the flap on our puppets to leave the closed eyes showing.
- ★ Tell the children the story "Bartimaeus" (**Leader—page 45**). Encourage them to hold their puppets and repeat the sounds as indicated.
- ★ Have the children open Bartimaeus' eyes when the story says, "And suddenly Bartimaeus could see!"
- ★ **Say:** When Jesus made Bartimaeus see, he showed God's power and how much God cares for people.

**Live B.i.G.** God worked through Jesus to do miracles and show God's power.

## Sound Off

### Do

- ★ Have all the children sit in a circle.
- ★ Pick one child to be Bartimaeus and sit in the center of the circle.
- ★ Make sure "Bartimaeus" covers his or her eyes with both hands.
- ★ Have the children say, "Bartimaeus, listen well! Who is calling? Can you tell?"
- ★ Pick one child to say, "Praise our God!"
- ★ Let Bartimaeus guess who spoke.
- ★ After Bartimaeus guesses, that person gets to be the new Bartimaeus.
- ★ Play until all the children have had a turn.
- ★ **Say:** When Bartimaeus heard Jesus walking toward him, he asked Jesus for help. Jesus stopped and made Bartimaeus see.

**Live B.i.G.** Healing was one way Jesus loved and cared for others.

## Picture Time

**Supplies:** DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ **Say:** Mr. Z has a listening game for us to try today. Are you ready? Let's show Mr. Z what amazing listeners we can be.
- ★ Watch Picture Time **(DVD)**. Encourage the children to close their eyes and listen carefully as instructed by Mr. Z.
  - ★ **Say:** People who are blind often learn to use their other senses, such as hearing, better than seeing people do. What a good thing it was that Bartimaeus listened so carefully!

**Live B.i.G.** We thank God for eyes that see and ears that hear.

## Finger Foods

**Supplies:** paper bag, small boxes of raisins, napkins

### Prepare

- ★ Place small boxes of raisins inside a paper bag.

- Do** ★ Have each child wash his or her hands.
- ★ Have the children sit down for today's snack.
  - ★ Give each child a napkin.
  - ★ Go to each child, hold the bag so that the child cannot see into the bag, and have the child reach into the bag to feel the small boxes of raisins.
  - ★ **Ask:** Can you tell what our snack is today just by touching it?
  - ★ Give each child a turn reaching into the bag, encouraging him or her to guess the snack—but not say it out loud.
  - ★ Then reveal the snack to the children.
  - ★ **Say:** Today our Bible story is about a man named Bartimaeus, who could not see. He had to touch things to know what they were. Then Bartimaeus met Jesus. Jesus helped Bartimaeus see.
  - ★ **Ask:** Do you think Bartimaeus thanked God when he was able to see?
  - ★ **Say:** Let's thank God right now.
  - ★ **Pray:** Thank you, God, for eyes to see, hands to touch, and tongues to taste. Thank you for this snack. Amen.

*Check for allergies before serving this snack.*



**Live B.i.G.** Using God's power to heal was one way Jesus loved and cared for others.





**The B.i.G. Idea**  
We believe that  
miracles show us  
the power of God.

*Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.*

## Thank You, God, for Eyes

**Supplies:** pictures of people's eyes cut from magazines, scissors, construction paper, marker, gluesticks

### Prepare

- ★ Look through magazines and cut out pictures of eyes.
- ★ Write "Thank you, God, for my eyes!" across the top of a sheet of construction paper for each child.

- Do**
- ★ Show the children the pictures of eyes. Invite the children to look at the eyes and talk about the ways the various eyes are the same and the ways they are different.
  - ★ **Pray:** Thank you, God, for our eyes.
  - ★ Let the children glue the eyes onto construction paper.
  - ★ **Say:** Bartimaeus could not see. Then Jesus helped Bartimaeus see. I wonder if Bartimaeus thanked God when he was able to see.

**Live B.i.G.** Jesus showed God's love by helping Bartimaeus see.

## Closing Worship

**Supplies:** Kids' Book, Stickers, Leader—page 45

### Prepare

- ★ Detach a storybook for each child (**Kids' Book**) (instructions, page 144).
- ★ Photocopy "Bartimaeus" (**Leader—page 45**) for each child.

- Do**
- ★ Gather the children in a circle.
  - ★ Place an "Ask Jesus for Help" worship badge **Sticker** on each child.
  - ★ **Say:** Bartimaeus asked Jesus for help and Jesus helped him. We can ask Jesus to help us too. Let's ask Jesus for help right now.
  - ★ **Pray:** Dear Jesus, please help us show God's love to others. Amen.
  - ★ Give each child a storybook (**Kids' Book**) and a copy of "Bartimaeus" (**Leader—page 45**) to take home.

**Live B.i.G.** God can work through us to show love to others.

Into Life

# Bartimaeus

Once there was a man named Bartimaeus who could not see.

*(Hold up puppet with closed eyes.)*

Each day Bartimaeus sat beside the road with his cloak over his lap. He listened as people dropped coins onto his cloak.

*(Say: "Clink, clink.")*

He listened to donkeys braying.

*(Say: "Hee haw.")*

He listened to birds singing.

*(Say: "Tweet, tweet.")*

He listened to people walking.

*(Say: "Step, step.")*

He listened to people talking.

*(Say: "Chat, chat.")*

He really listened when they talked about Jesus.

*(Say: "Jesus is coming!")*

Bartimaeus heard Jesus walking toward him.

*(Say: "Step, step.")*

"Jesus! Help me!" shouted Bartimaeus.

"Come here," called Jesus.

Bartimaeus threw off his coat and ran to Jesus.

"What do you want?" asked Jesus.

"I want to see," said Bartimaeus.

"Go," said Jesus. "Your faith has made you well."

And suddenly Bartimaeus could see!

*(Turn over the flap on the puppet head so that the open eyes show.)*

He saw the donkeys that were braying.

*(Say: "Hee haw.")*

He saw the birds that were singing.

*(Say: "Tweet, tweet.")*

He saw the people walking as they passed by.

*(Say: "Step, step.")*

He saw the people who were talking.

*(Say: "Chat, chat.")*

He saw Jesus!

*based on Mark 10:46-52*



# Help Bartimaeus Get to Jesus

