



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

Lesson 4 ★ Bartimaeus

Today's Bible Story

Mark 10:46-52

Objectives

- ★ Children will connect with the biblical story of Jesus healing Bartimaeus.
- ★ Children will discover ways we can ask for Jesus' help for ourselves and for others.

Children are often inquisitive about blindness. They may close their eyes and pretend they are blind to find out what it is like to live without eyesight. Of course, this is never an accurate portrayal of what it is like to be blind, but it does begin to introduce children to the idea.

Blindness in biblical times was different in many ways than blindness today. Blindness was common in Jesus' day. In biblical times, a major cause of blindness was ophthalmic conjunctivitis. This kind of blindness was spread by flies and was aggravated by the desert sun and sands. Blindness was very common and very likely to be found among family and friends. Today the most prevalent form of blindness is spiritual blindness. It is much more common than physical blindness. Spiritual blindness is all around us and threatens our relationship with God and with one another.

Jewish people of biblical times were waiting on a messiah of prophecy. They believed that when the Messiah came, he would heal their ailments, including blindness. The prophet Isaiah wrote that the Messiah would heal many of the people's illnesses. Specifically, the deaf would hear, the lame would walk, the lepers would be cleansed, and the blind would be able to see again.

In Jesus' ministry, he healed two blind people. These healings were signs to the people that Isaiah's prophecies from long ago about the coming of a messiah had come true. The Gospel of John provides the story of Jesus healing the man born blind. Jesus also healed blind Bartimaeus in today's story from Mark. Jesus healed these people of their blindness, and they certainly benefited from their healings. But something much more important was occurring. These healings were a sign that the Messiah had come.

Jesus told Bartimaeus that his faith had cured him. In the Bible, "faith" often means the trust we have in God. A Hebrew word that is often translated as "faith" is *Amen*, which Christians use at the end of prayers and sometimes hymns. Faith is a trust that belies reason. Bartimaeus approached Jesus with complete faith that the Teacher could and would heal him. It is this same kind of faith that is often found in children.

As you prepare for today's lesson, help the children put their faith into words. Think about times when you have had no choice but to trust God to take care of a situation. Today is a wonderful time to share your own faith story with the children. Remember to keep your story or testimony short and simple, but real and honest. Ask the children to share stories of their faith as well. It is in the sharing of our faith with one another that we all begin to grow closer to God, and to one another.

Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)

The B.I.G. Sound	✓
Braille Bible Verse	✓
Where in Jericho Is Jesus?	✓
Blindfold Challenge	

. . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)

Blind Bartimaeus	✓	
Cloak-Toss Relay		
Blind Balance	✓	
Biblical Mosaic		✓

. . . Into Life (15 minutes)

The B.I.G. Picture	✓	
Mission Project		
Tactile Banner		✓
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: The B.i.G. Picture

This week The B.I.G. Picture uses humorous images to tell the story of Bartimaeus, the blind beggar who called out to Jesus for healing. The DVD segment begins by asking your kids, "Have you ever needed help?" The images that follow remind them, in a lighthearted way, that sometimes we all need help. Your children will understand that just as Bartimaeus shouted for Jesus to help him see, we can also ask God to help us.



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

The B.i.G. Sound



Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

Prepare

- ★ Preview The B.I.G. Sound (**DVD**).

Do

- ★ Gather the children near the television.
- ★ **Say:** We are going to listen to the song we have been learning this month. Let's see if we can sing it with the kids at The Station.
- ★ Play The B.I.G. Sound (**DVD**) and invite the children to sing along and try the movements as demonstrated on the **DVD**.
- ★ **Say:** That was great. Now, let's try it again and, this time, make up your own movements to the song.
- ★ Play The B.I.G. Sound again (**DVD**), and encourage the children to make up motions.

Live B.i.G. We can praise God with our bodies.

Braille Bible Verse



Supplies: Leader—page 57, pencils

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy "Braille Bible Verse" (**Leader—page 57**) for each child.

Do

- ★ **Say:** When you first look at something written in Braille, all you see or feel is a jumble of dots. However, like any other code, Braille is based on a logical system. Once you understand it, you'll be able to read and write Braille easily. That's because Braille is not a language, it's just another way to read and write.
- ★ Have the children look at the Braille code (**Leader—page 57**).
- ★ Help them find the letter that matches the first cell (Braille letter) in the puzzle.
- ★ Allow time for the children to finish the puzzle.

Live B.i.G. There are many ways of reading God's Word.

Invite them in . . .

Where in Jericho Is Jesus?



Supplies: Leader—page 59, crayons, colored pencils

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “Where in Jericho Is Jesus?” (Leader—page 59) for each child.

- Do** ★ **Say:** Jesus walked wherever he went. He walked and walked. Sometimes people would follow along so they could continue talking with Jesus. Let’s see if we can find Jesus on the road to Jericho.
- ★ Have the children locate and color the Jesus figure in each of the scenes (Leader—page 59).
 - ★ If they wish, the children may then color the remainder of each scene.

Live B.i.G. We can talk to Jesus anytime and anywhere.

Blindfold Challenge



Supplies: blindfold for each child; beanbag; red, blue, and yellow colored paper; pencils

Prepare

- ★ Place a piece of each color of paper, a pencil, and a blindfold at each child’s place.

- Do** ★ **Say:** Our story is about a man who could not see. Let’s find out what it might be like to be completely blind. To do this, I will invite you to put on your blindfold and accept some challenges. They may be difficult; let’s see how you do.
- ★ The children will put on the blindfolds by themselves or with assistance. After each challenge, allow the children a few minutes to attempt to do what you have asked.
 - ★ Issue the following challenges:
 - Choose the red paper in front of you and place it on the bottom.
 - Choose the blue paper and fold it in quarters.
 - Draw a picture using the yellow paper and the pencil in front of you.
 - When your name is called, try to catch the beanbag that is tossed to you.
 - Tie your neighbor’s shoes.
 - Someone will stand in front of you. When your name is called, say the name of the person without touching or talking to that person.
 - ★ After completing the challenges, invite the children to remove their blindfolds.
 - ★ **Ask:** How did it feel to be asked to do things when you could not see?

Live B.i.G. Children will experience some of the challenges a person who is blind might face.

LIVE BIG

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.

Blind Bartimaeus



Supplies: Leader—page 56

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “Blind Bartimaeus” (**Leader—page 56**) for each child.

Do ★ **Say:** We have been learning about what it might be like to be blind. Today’s Bible story is also about someone who was blind and wanted to see very much.

- ★ Give each child a copy of the story, “Blind Bartimaeus” (**Leader—page 56**).

- ★ Choose one person to be Bartimaeus, one to be Jesus, and the remaining children to be the Crowd.

- ★ As the teacher reads the narration, each child will read his or her part. Read through several times so the children get a feel for the story.

- ★ Next, invite the children to act out the scene.

- ★ **Say:** What did Bartimaeus want? (*to see*) What happened to Bartimaeus in the story? (*He was healed.*) Why did Jesus heal Bartimaeus? (*Bartimaeus had faith; God loved Bartimaeus; Jesus performed a miracle.*) When we have faith, amazing things can happen!

Live B.i.G. Bartimaeus waited for Jesus to come near and never gave up until he was healed.

Cloak-Toss Relay



Supplies: two large coats, space to run

Do ★ Divide the children into two multi-aged teams.

- ★ If there are an odd number of children, one of the children can play Jesus. If there are an even number of children, have an adult be Jesus.

- ★ Have each team form a single line and sit down. Give the first person in each line a large coat to put on. Jesus should stand in the center between the two lines, so he or she is an equal distance from each line.

- ★ **Say:** Today we are going to play a relay game. When I say “Go,” the first person in line will jump up, throw off her or his coat, and run to Jesus. While the first player runs to Jesus, the second person in line will put on the coat. Jesus will place a hand on the child’s head

and say, “You are healed.” Then the healed child will run back to the line and tap the next person in line, who will repeat the process. The game ends when everyone is healed.

- ★ Play the game.
- ★ **Say:** In our story today, a blind man named Bartimaeus had a strong faith. He believed that Jesus would heal him. When we have faith and believe very strongly, like Bartimaeus, miracles can happen.

Live B.i.G. When we have faith, miracles can happen.

Blind Balance



- Do**
- ★ Have the children stand an arm’s-length apart from one another, in an area without furniture.
 - ★ **Say:** Let’s find out how important our sight is to our ability to walk around.
 - ★ Ask the children to stand on both feet and balance for thirty seconds.
 - ★ Next, have them close both eyes and try to balance for thirty seconds. Compare the difficulty of both tasks.
 - ★ Invite the children who want a deeper challenge to stand on one foot and balance for fifteen seconds, without touching anything for support.
 - ★ Next, have them try the same thing with both eyes closed.
 - ★ **Say:** Our balance is partly dependent on our ability to see our surroundings. God created all of our senses to work together to help us do the things we need to do. This is why it is especially difficult for a person who does not have the use of one of her or his senses.

Live B.i.G. God created our awesome senses.

Biblical Mosaic



Supplies: Leader—page 58, card stock, variety of textured paper, cotton balls, sandpaper, fabric scraps, scissors, glue

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “Biblical Mosaic” (**Leader—page 58**) onto card stock for each child.

- Do**
- ★ **Say:** Those who are blind enjoy art with their fingers by feeling different textures. Today we will complete a picture by using different textures instead of colors. Choose a different paper or material to fill in each area on your picture.
 - ★ Allow time for the children to complete their “Biblical Mosaics” (**Leader—page 58**).
 - ★ Set aside to dry.

Live B.i.G. We can experience God’s world in different ways.



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.

The B.i.G. Picture



Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television, blindfolds

Prepare

- ★ Preview The B.I.G. Picture (**DVD**).

Do ★ **Say:** As we watch The B.I.G. Picture today, we're going to watch it in the way Bartimaeus would have watched it—with no vision!

- ★ Invite the children to put on blindfolds, and play The B.I.G. Picture (**DVD**).

- ★ **Ask:** What was it like watching The B.I.G. Picture without being able to see it? Let's watch it again, but this time, we'll use our eyes as well as our ears. As we watch this time, I'd like you to think of a time when you needed help. Try to remember if it was easy or hard to ask for help.

- ★ Watch The B.I.G. Picture with the children (**DVD**).

- ★ **Ask:** Is it easy or hard to ask for help? Is it easier in certain situations? Is it easier when you ask certain people? The story of Bartimaeus encourages us to ask God for help. Let's practice.

- ★ Have the children say "Help!" five times, building from a whisper to a shout.

- ★ **Say:** We believe that we can always ask God for help, no matter what kind of help we need, and that God will hear our prayers.

Live B.i.G. We can ask God for help.

Mission Project



Prepare

- ★ Contact a local Lions Club or ophthalmologist, and invite someone to come and talk with the children. Ask that person to bring an idea to the children of something kids could do for his or her organization, such as collect old eyeglasses.

- ★ Prepare a take-home note about the visitor and the mission project.

Do ★ **Say:** I would like to introduce you to a guest today. He/she would like to tell you about his/her work with the blind. We are going to find out how we can help make blind or visually impaired people's lives easier.

- ★ Invite the guest to talk about her or his work or volunteerism.

- ★ Allow the children to thank the guest, and distribute the take-home note. Set a date to complete the mission project.

Live B.i.G. God is always with us.

Tactile Banner



Supplies: felt (banner-size), one-inch wooden dowel rod, scraps of felt and stiff fabrics in bright colors, stick-on Velcro® dots, heavy cording, fabric scissors, needle and thread or sewing machine

Prepare

- ★ Arrange for a public space in the church to display the children's banner.
- ★ Fold the top of the banner fabric over two inches and sew close to the edge to create a casing to fit the dowel rod.
- ★ Cut through the banner two inches from each outside edge, just below the dowel rod. This is where you will attach the cording to facilitate hanging the banner.

- Do** ★ **Say:** Jesus healed Bartimaeus in front of everyone. Their faith increased when they saw what had happened. We can help other people hear about Jesus by creating a banner that everyone can touch, see, and enjoy.
- ★ Ask the children to think about the Bible story. As a group, have them decide what they would like to portray on their banner.
 - ★ Each child may select a material to work with and design, and cut out a shape, figure, or design that will be added to the banner.
 - ★ Attach the individual pieces with sticky-back Velcro® dots. Larger pieces may need two or even three dots.
 - ★ After the banner is finished, attach the hanging cord through the hole cut earlier.
 - ★ Tie the cording securely.
 - ★ Invite the children to go with you to hang their banner.

Live B.i.G. We can show others the love of God through our gifts.

Closing Worship



Supplies: CEV Bible, scented candle in a glass jar, butane stick lighter

- Do** ★ Gather the children in the worship center.
- ★ Turn to and read Psalm 150:2, CEV. Invite the children to say the verse together.
 - ★ **Say:** There are many different ways of experiencing God's world. Bartimaeus experienced the world with his ears. He waited and listened for Jesus to come by so he could get Jesus' attention and ask for healing. Another way we can experience the world is through scent. Candles are often used in worship. Let's get comfortable and grow very quiet, and see what this candle brings to our worship.
 - ★ Wait for the children to grow still and quiet. Invite them to close their eyes, and light the candle and wait for about fifteen to thirty seconds (as long as the children's energy will tolerate).
 - ★ **Ask:** What did you experience when the candle was lit? What did it smell like? Did you hear anything? Did you want to see it? (*Allow the children to talk about the candle before extinguishing the flame.*)

Live B.i.G. We can worship God through all of our senses.

Blind Bartimaeus

(Based on Mark 10:46-52.)

Narrator: Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As they were leaving the city, a large crowd was with them. A blind man was sitting by the side of the road, begging. He heard that Jesus was passing by, so he began to shout.

Bartimaeus: Jesus! Have mercy on me!

Crowd: You, be quiet!

Narrator: Many people commanded him to stop shouting and to be quiet. But he shouted even louder.

Bartimaeus: Jesus! Have mercy on me!

Jesus: Bring that man to me.

Crowd: Cheer up! Get up on your feet. Jesus is calling for you.

Narrator: Bartimaeus threw his coat aside and jumped to his feet. He ran toward Jesus.

Jesus: What do you want me to do for you?

Bartimaeus: I want to be able to see.

Jesus: Go. Your faith has healed you.

Narrator: Right away, he could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.



Lesson 4

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z				

Psalm 150:2, CEV

Biblical Mosaic



Where in Jericho Is Jesus?

