

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



GOOD NEWS SHARED WITH BARTIMAEUS

Mark 10:46-52 Jesus heals a blind man

In this session we look at how Bartimaeus's life must have been turned around through his encounter with Jesus.

Start It

● **Say:** Today we are going to start by watching the news – but not just any news, happy news!

Screenshare: *Happy News: Stories to make you Smile* by BBC Newsround (1 min 14 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bZ9alriN9A>

Ask: What does it feel like when you hear happy news?

● **Say:** Today we will have the chance to create our own news story together, sharing the happy news of the healing of Bartimaeus.

Ask:

- What would we need to include to create our own news story?
- Who could *Newsround* have interviewed to add more information to the clip?
- What kind of questions could they have asked?

Sing It

Although this is officially the 'Sing It' section, you might want to encourage the children to have a go at following the dance moves today instead!

'Tell the world' by Hillsong (Dance-a-long with lyrics) (3 mins 10 secs)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udzlpUQqlwI>

Tell It

● **Say:** Bartimaeus lived in Jericho and was blind. In those days people didn't understand illness and disability; they thought any impairment was a punishment from God. So Bartimaeus spent his days begging as he had nothing to eat. As he sat on the roadside one day, he met Jesus and his life changed forever.

Screenshare: Mark 10:46-52 (ICB)

Then they came to the town of Jericho. As Jesus was leaving there with his followers and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting by the road. He heard that Jesus from Nazareth was walking by. The blind man cried out, 'Jesus, Son of David, please help me!'

Many people scolded the blind man and told him to be quiet. But he shouted more and more, 'Son of David, please help me!'

Jesus stopped and said, 'Tell the man to come here.'

So they called the blind man. They said, 'Cheer up! Get to your feet. Jesus is calling you.' The blind man stood up quickly. He left his coat there and went to Jesus.

Jesus asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?'

The blind man answered, 'Teacher, I want to see again.'

Jesus said, 'Go. You are healed because you believed.' At once the man was able to see again, and he followed Jesus on the road.

Video

🗣️ **Say:** Today we're going to imagine what it was like to see the healing of Bartimaeus. As you watch the clip, imagine you are the children seeing Bartimaeus meet Jesus.

Screenshare: *Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus* by Superbook (1 min 22 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IZMP65xrpk>

🗣️ **Say:** Even though Bartimaeus couldn't see Jesus, he knew who he was. He called Jesus the 'Son of David'. David was the most important king in the Old Testament. Bartimaeus didn't really think David was Jesus' Dad, but he understood that Jesus was part of King David's family. Bartimaeus knew that something special would happen if he could just get the chance to meet Jesus.

Discuss

- ➔ How did the people around react to Bartimaeus calling out to Jesus?
- ➔ How do you think you would have reacted if you were there?
- ➔ Why do you think Bartimaeus was so desperate to get the attention of Jesus?
- ➔ Have another look at Mark 10:52. Why did Jesus heal Bartimaeus?

For the next activity the children will need a good grasp of the story. Ask them to summarise the main events of the story before you move on to the 'Action It' section.

Action It

🗣️ **Say:** In Mark 10:52 we find out that once Bartimaeus could see again, he continued to follow Jesus down the road. Although we never find out what happened to Bartimaeus, it's pretty safe to say that his encounter with Jesus was life-changing.

Discuss

Imagine you are Bartimaeus.

- ➔ What would you tell your friends and family about the time you met Jesus?
- ➔ Would you be excited to tell them? If so, why?

Ask the group to imagine they are presenting their own episode of *Newsround's 'Happy News'* and the happy news they are sharing is the miraculous healing of Bartimaeus.

Possible characters could include:

- ➔ Two presenters in the studio
- ➔ A roving reporter
- ➔ Bartimaeus
- ➔ Someone who witnessed the event

The children can act out the interview, asking questions from all they have discovered in the session so far. If you have time, they could then film what they have done to show people at home or at church.

🗣️ **Say:** Bartimaeus had an amazing encounter with Jesus and probably wanted to tell the whole world. As Christians we need to show the same excitement to those we meet as we tell them all about Jesus.

Pray It

- **Say:** Jesus heard Bartimaeus calling to him in the crowd and took the time to listen. We may not be able to see Jesus walking through our town but he will always listen to us when we pray.

Video

Screenshare: *What is Prayer?* By Crossroads Kids' Club (47 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6muRREUOU0>

- **Say:** As Christians we believe we can pray to God whenever we need to. We get to talk to the Creator of the world whenever we like. This is amazing news that we can't keep to ourselves.

Ask: How could you tell your friends the amazing news that Jesus loves them and will listen to them whenever they pray?

Pray with the group to bring the session to a close.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.