

Date: 10-28-18

Theme: Asking in Faith

Scripture: Mark 10: 46-52

Materials and Preparation:

- a. Two or three blindfolds for the Blindfold Relay. (The number needed depends on attendance; you need one blindfold for each team, with 3 or 4 students per team.)
- b. Two or three bowls or baskets for the Blindfold Relay.
- c. Small items to place in the bowls (or baskets). Examples: a cup, a pencil, an eraser, a penny, a marble, or a spoon. Each bowl or basket must have the same contents. *There should be 3 or 4 items in each bowl (or basket).*
- d. Bring copies of Mark 10: 46-52 in the *New Revised Standard Version*, one copy per student. You can print these copies using page 5 below.
- e. Bring a blank “book” for each student: Fold two sheets of letter-sized paper in half and staple them together at the fold.
- f. Each student will need a pen or pencil and access to crayons.
- g. Bring copies of the lyrics for “On the Jericho Road,” one copy per student. You can print these copies using page 4 below. (If you want a more complete set of lyrics, use the URL provided below.)
- h. Enlist a guitarist to help the students learn “On the Jericho Road” and to play as the students are constructing their “books.”
- i. Music (and a complete set of lyrics) for “On the Jericho Road” can be obtained via the following URL: <https://hymnary.org/hymn/SoS1943/page/151>
- j. Ideally, coordinate with the Video Team so the lyrics for “On the Jericho Road” can be made available to the congregation (when the students lead the congregation in singing this song).

Vocabulary Words: faith, mercy

Objective: To help the students understand the importance of asking God for help in faith that they will receive help.

Opening: Have the students recite the Lord’s Prayer (they may need to repeat each line after you)

Activity 1: Blindfold Relay

1. Organize the students into two or three teams, with 3 or 4 students per team. (There should be no more members per team than there are items in the bowls or baskets.)
2. Place 3 or 4 small items (e.g., a pencil, an eraser, a penny, a marble) in *each* of two (or three) bowls or baskets. (The bowls or baskets need to have the same contents.)
3. On the whiteboard write a list of the items *in the order in which they are to be retrieved*. This will help to avoid confusion and to keep the teams on task.
4. One member of each team is blindfolded. The teacher announces the first item on the list, e.g., “Pencil.” The blindfolded team members must walk across the room to their respective bowls (or baskets), guided by the voices of their teammates. They must then

select the announced item and return with it to their team; at which point they remove the blindfold.

5. Next, a second member of the team is blindfolded; he or she must retrieve the second item on the list.
6. Then a third member of the team is blindfolded; he or she must retrieve the third item on the list, and so on, till all the items in the bowls (or baskets) have been retrieved.
7. The first team to retrieve all of the items--one by one and in the posted order--is the winner.

Reading:

What was it like to be blindfolded? Was it hard to follow instructions from your teammates? Did you wish you could peek? Would you want to be blindfolded all the time?

Today we are going to read a story about a man who wasn't just blindfolded; he was blind. He could not see—at all. As we read the story, notice how other people treat the blind man and how Jesus treats the blind man.

Read Mark 10: 46-52 in the *Whirl Story Bible* or the *Spark Story Bible*.

The blind man's name was Bartimaeus. [Some pronounce this "Bar-TIM-ay-us"; others "Bar-ti-MAY-us. The first pronunciation works better when singing "On the Jericho Road."]

How did other people treat Bartimaeus? How did Jesus treat him?

Bible stories have been put into different words by different people. Often we can understand a story better by reading different ways of telling it. Let's try it! [Provide each student with a copy of the *New Revised Standard Version*--copies can readily be printed from page 5 below.] Have the students take turns reading the passage, with each student reading one verse.

Mark 10: 46-52 (NRSV) ⁴⁶ They came to Jericho. As he [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." ⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." ⁵² Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

[Note: Bartimaeus calls Jesus "Son of David" because Jesus' family history can be traced back to the famous King David--the same David who killed the giant, Goliath, with a sling.]

Questions to discuss:

1. Why did the crowd try to keep Bartimaeus quiet?
2. Why didn't Bartimaeus stay quiet?

3. Bartimaeus said, “Have mercy?” What does that mean?
4. Jesus said to Bartimaeus, “Your faith has made you well.” What is faith? [Did Bartimaeus *trust* that God could heal him?]
5. What can we learn from this Bible story? [Was Bartimaeus humble—willing to admit that he needed help? Did Bartimaeus let *the opinions of other people* stop him from seeking help? Did Bartimaeus ask for help in faith that he would receive help? What did Bartimaeus do after he was healed?]
6. When we ask God for help do we always get exactly what we ask for? Do people ever ask God for things they shouldn’t ask for? Might God sometimes help people in ways they do not ask for? Does God know our real needs better than we do?

Activity 2: Make your own book!

1. Provide each student with a “blank book” (see “Materials and Preparation”). On the cover have the students write (in big letters), “A Book about Bartimaeus.”
2. On the first page have them glue or tape their copy of Mark 10: 46-52 (NRSV).
3. On the second page have them make a stick-figure drawing of Jesus’ healing Bartimaeus.
4. On the third page let them write their own answer to this question: “What I learned from the story about Bartimaeus.” (One or two sentences.)
5. On the fourth page have them glue or tape the lyrics to “On the Jericho Road” (copies can readily be printed using page 4 below).
6. Let the students decorate the book as they wish.

[As the students work on their books, have the guitarist play the music for “On the Jericho Road” and any other songs he or she wishes to play.]

Closing: This Bible story is so famous that one verse in a well-known song is devoted to it. Ask the guitar player to help the students learn the song “On the Jericho Road” emphasizing the verse about Bartimaeus.

Offering: Be sure the students bring their “books” with them, since the books contain the lyrics to “On the Jericho Road.” With the guitar player’s assistance, the students lead the congregation in singing “On the Jericho Road.” (Coordinating with the Video Team will help to ensure that the congregation is singing the same lyrics the students are singing.)

ON THE JERICHO ROAD

On the Jericho Road there's room for just two
No more and no less just Jesus and you
Each burden He'll bear each sorrow He'll share
There's never a care for Jesus is there.

On the Jericho Road blind Bartimaeus sat
His life was a void so empty and flat
But Jesus appeared, one word brought him sight
On the Jericho Road Christ banished his night.

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