

Week 19

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

One day, Jesus and His disciples were leaving the city of Jericho. A crowd of people followed them. Outside the city along the edge of the road, sat a blind man named Bartimaeus. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was coming nearby, he called out to Jesus for help. He shouted, "Jesus, have mercy on me!"

The crowd was not kind to the beggar. They said, "Stop calling out to Jesus. Be silent." But the blind man did not stop. He did not give up. He called out even more, "Jesus, have mercy on me!"

Jesus heard Bartimaeus. He invited the blind man to come closer. Bartimaeus was excited. He jumped up and came right away. Jesus asked him, "What do you want?"

The blind man said, "Jesus, I would like to see. Help me."

And Jesus did. He said, "Your faith has made you well." (*) At that very moment, blind Bartimaeus was no longer blind. He could see. He was so happy to see birds and flowers and colors. He was so happy to see Jesus.

And what do you think he did next? Bartimaeus followed Jesus. With his new life, he lived joyfully for the Lord!

Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

Think about It

Read the Bible narrative in Mark 10:46-52. Once again, we see the power and compassion of Jesus. Take special note of the man's response to Jesus. He didn't just say thank you and go happily on his way, he followed Jesus, becoming a disciple in faith, living for Him. What is our response to the love of Jesus in our lives?

Bible Words

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

John 9:5





Dear Family,

In this Bible story, Bartimaeus is a blind beggar, who seems unimportant and unloved by everyone who passes by, even Jesus' disciples. But to Jesus, he is important and loved. To Jesus, all people, including children, are special.

In the Bible story, Bartimaeus shouts out to Jesus for mercy. (To show mercy means to feel sorry for someone in need and help them.) Jesus hears the cry of Bartimaeus, calls him closer, listens to his plea, and heals him.

We, too, can shout out to Jesus for mercy. We can ask Him to heal us from the sin-sickness that blinds us. What does Jesus do? He calls us by faith and listens to our prayers. He heals us through the power of His death and resurrection. Then we, His healed and thankful children, rise and follow Him. Play a game of I Spy with your child.

Say, "I spy something God made that is (describe the color or shape of an object)." Thank God for eyes, glasses, Braille, and other sight-saving helps. Thank God for His mercy and healing.

Read more about the Bible lesson on pages 348-350 in *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).