

Bible Stories 1.0

INTRODUCTION- TIPS FOR PRESENTING BIBLE STORIES

The idea of a Bible curriculum based only on stories may seem unusual. After all, we have been trained to think in a literate way. We have printed materials. We have learned from reading in books, magazines, newspapers and websites. We are accustomed to reading, lectures, worksheets and the like. But the world is changing.

In the west we find that many people prefer to learn through non- literate ways. It is not that they cannot read, but that they would rather watch a video, or a movie. Stories have long been the most effective method for communicating information, and now we are realizing that reading stories is falling out of fashion. Rather than resist this change in our culture, we should look for methods to teach the same gospel truths that are more accessible to the modern student.

This situation is even more dramatic in the developing world. In places where there are no schools we will find that printed material and traditional “western” methods are not useful at all. This is even more the case in places where there is a language barrier to overcome. In most places in the world an English speaker can communicate with others, but it is hard. However, if we can tell a story, even one that needs to be translated or interpreted, we will increase our effectiveness exponentially.

To prepare for this, we have designed these five stories to share in any setting at any time. Learning a story, especially a Bible story, can be intimidating. No one wants to make a mistake in telling the greatest story of all time. Consider these tips to help you prepare for and use the material that follows.

- Pick a version of the story that speaks to you. The stories contained in this material have been based on the New King James Version of the Bible. You should use the Bible that you are most familiar with and that holds the most meaning for you.
- Repeat the stories several times. Read it silently and then aloud several times from your preferred version. Then read the same story in other versions. Practice telling the story to others. Reading, repeating and reading some more will help you assimilate the details of your story.
- Don't try to memorize the story. You want to tell the story, not recite it. Reading is great, but you want the story to live and have meaning. Use your voice and your gestures to communicate what you want to say.
- Focus on the main message of the story. You want to include as many specific details as you can, but make sure that you get the theme of the story every time. It might help to focus on the message of the story in your prayer and devotional times.

- Visualizing the scenes can be very helpful. Our minds work in a visual way. If you can picture what a scene looks like, you may be able to communicate that to your listeners as well.
- Listen to recordings of the stories. As you are beginning to work on each story, record yourself telling it. Then as you continue working on it you can listen to the story over and over again. This will help you learn the story and will allow you to critique and improve on it.
- Use as many tools as you can to the story. You may want to work on gestures, the volume and tone of your voice and even drama in your storytelling. In some ways you can think of this as a performance.
- Practice telling your stories with others. A great practice will be to create a storying group. Take turns telling each other the story. Work with each other to develop accuracy and effectiveness. Remember though, that the purpose of working together is so that everyone will improve. This is not a competition where we try to best one another, or put someone else down.
- When telling your stories and especially when leading the discussion, do not criticize anyone. It is important that the truth of God's Word is communicated, but be sure to do it in as positive a way as possible. Be open and direct conversation to truth.
- In a similar way, be sure that you speak the truth in such way that you will not leave a negative impression. Be truthful without being judgmental or legalistic.
- There are some discussion questions suggested for each story, but you will no doubt want to develop your own. As you are working on that, use open-ended questions. Ask things like, "Why did this happen?" "What is important for us to remember?" "How did that make you feel?"

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LEADING SOMEONE TO CHRIST

There is nothing scary or spooky about leading another person to faith in Christ. In fact, other than your own salvation, there may be nothing better than sharing your faith with another human and then escorting them to a relationship with Jesus. Don't be intimidated by this, or afraid that you will say something wrong or mess up. You don't even need to be confident about it because it is the Holy Spirit who convicts the heart of sin. It is Jesus who offers grace for forgiveness. Your job is merely to be a guide. God will do the work.

This should also help you in those times when you feel ineffective. When you feel as though you have failed because someone did not respond to you, remember that this person did not respond to God. There was nothing more you could have done about it.

The stories in this series are designed to teach important truths from the Bible, but the most significant purpose is to call men, women and children to faith in Jesus. To that end, each story can include an invitation to accept Christ. The invitation should come about during the post-story discussion time.

Do not be a "high pressure evangelist." Rather, let God speak to individuals in a normal, conversational way. You will no doubt be amazed at how the people listening to your stories will be open not only to the discussion, but also to the idea of committing their lives to Christ. Do not try to coerce or force anyone to make a decision they are not ready to make. Pray that God will work in the lives of those who are listening and then trust that life transformation will take place.

You may have questions about children and their ability to understand the gospel thoroughly enough to make a decision to live for Christ. Again, we should be encouraged to not get too stressed out about this. God will call those people who are ready to follow him. Children may not understand fully (I am not sure that adults do, for that matter), but they can hear God speaking to them. They can feel the Holy Spirit tugging on their hearts.

John 3.16

There are four steps to sharing the John 3.16 model with those who are unsaved. Begin with the verse itself.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (NKJV)

1. **God loves.** The verse begins by telling us that God loves the whole world. This certainly includes every person, including you. It doesn't matter who you are, where you live,

what you know, or what you have done, God loves you. It is only because of the grace of God that we are saved. (Ephesians 2.8)

2. In fact, God loves you so much that **he gives**. The verse says that God gave us his Son. Jesus came and became a part of our world so that we would know how to live and so that he could make a way for us to be like him.
3. All we must do is **believe in him**. The gift is ours. We only need to repent of our sins, ask Jesus to forgive us and come into our lives. There is nothing that we need to do to earn this gift. No matter how good we are or how hard we work, all we must do is believe.
4. The promise for us is that **we will live**. There are rewards that follow those who accept Jesus as their Savior. One of the best rewards is that we get everlasting life with Jesus. Eternity in heaven with Jesus is great, but there is also an enhanced quality of life that we get here in this world. Jesus called this “abundant life.” (John 10.10)

After sharing the John 3.16 Model with someone who is interested in accepting Christ, it is appropriate to ask them to pray. The Sinner’s Prayer is an American invention that seeks to cover all the bases to make sure a person is truly saved. But in many cultures this sort of standardized, repeat after me prayer will seem artificial and forced. Encourage those who are becoming Christians to say their own prayers. Remind them to repent of their sins and ask God to forgive and help them.

Sometimes it is preferable to offer a “repeat after me” prayer, however. In those cases, it will be best for the leader to be spontaneous and pray from the heart. When you need a little help, though, feel free to use this prayer. You can pray it verbatim or use it as a model.

The Sinner’s Prayer

Dear Jesus, I am sorry. I have not always done the things I should, and some of the things that I should do, I haven’t. Please forgive me. Help me to do better. I want to live for you and do what you want me to do. Come into my heart. Lord, I want you to live in me every day. Lead me in the ways that I should go so that I can have life eternal and abundant. In Jesus’ name, I make this prayer. Amen.

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THE WOMAN AT THE WELL- JOHN 4.3-42

Objective: To understand Jesus' relationship to lost people.

Theme: Jesus loves and forgives everyone.

Memory Verse: God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.
John 4.24

Story:

This is a true story from God's Word.

Jesus left Judea and started toward the area called Galilee. He needed to go through the area of Samaria on the way.

While he was traveling he came to a place called Sychar. This was near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was in that town. Jesus, who was already tired from traveling, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

A woman from Samaria came out to get some water. Jesus saw her and said, "Give me a drink." He said this to her because his friends and followers had gone into town to get some food.

Then the woman said to Jesus, "You are Jewish and I am Samaritan, a woman even, how is it that you are asking me for water?" She said this because Jewish people had nothing to do with Samaritans at that time.

Jesus answered her by saying, "If you knew the gift of God, and if you knew who it was that was asking you for a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

This woman said to Jesus, "Sir, you have nothing with which to get the water from the well, and the well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? Surely you don't think that you are greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well. In fact, he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his animals."

Jesus said, "Whoever drinks the water from this well will get thirsty again, but I will give you water, that if you drink it, you will never get thirsty again. The water that I offer you will become a spring in you that will flow out unto everlasting life."

She said, "Please give me this water so that I won't get thirsty anymore, nor need to come here to get water."

He said to her, "Go get your husband and then come back here."

But the woman replied, "I have no husband."

Jesus' answer to her was, "You told the truth when you said, 'I have no husband.' In fact, you have had five husbands, and the man you have now is not actually your husband. You told the truth about that."

This made the woman say to Jesus, "Sir, I think that you must be a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but your people say that Jerusalem is the place where we ought to worship."

Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me when I tell you, the hour is coming soon when you will not worship on the mountain, nor in Jerusalem. You worship the Father, who you do not know; we know who we worship, because salvation has come to the Jewish people. But someday, and it will be soon, true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. That is the kind of worship that God is looking for. God is a Spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth.

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah, the Christ, is coming. When he gets here he will explain everything to us."

Jesus answered her by saying, "I am the one you are waiting for."

It was at this time that Jesus' friends and followers returned. They were surprised that he was talking to a woman; but no one asked him, "What are you after?" or, "Why are you talking with a Samaritan woman?"

The woman, for her part, left her waterpot and went back to the city. She told the men of the town, "Come with me to meet a man who told me everything I ever did. I think he might be the Christ." Then the men of the city went out with her to meet him.

Meanwhile, Jesus' friends and followers encouraged him to have something to eat. They said, "Teacher, eat something."

But he replied, "I have been eating some food that you don't even know about."

This only confused them. They asked each other, "Has someone brought him some food while we were away?"

Jesus said to them, “I am nourished by doing what God wants me to do. He sent me here to do his work. Don’t you say that, ‘It is still a little while until the harvest is ready?’ Well, I say, look around you, the harvest is already ripe. Bring it in! The one who gathers the harvest will be rewarded; he is gathering fruit for his eternal life. In this way the one who plants and the one who harvests will celebrate and rejoice together. The saying is true: ‘One person plants and another person harvests.’ You are sent to harvest the crops that you have not planted nor tended; other people have started the work and you have joined in later.

Many of the people of Samaria and that city believed in Jesus because of what this woman said. She told them, “He told me everything I ever did.” So, when they came out to find Jesus, the people asked Jesus to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. There were many more who believed in him because of what he said.

The Samaritan people said to the woman, “We believe in Jesus not only because of what you told us, but because now we have heard for ourselves what Jesus has to say. We believe that he is the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

This is a story from the Word of God.

Discussion Questions:

- What do we learn about Jesus in the story?
- What does God think about different racial and ethnic groups?
- What was this woman’s life like before she met Jesus?
- Why did she leave her waterpot? What does this mean?
- What is “living water”? Does Jesus still offer it?
- Have you experienced living water? Would you like to?

Activities:

- Re-Tell the story. As a group go over the story again. Take turns giving the high points of the story. You can have each person take turns recounting the events that take place next, but don’t be afraid to stop and correct someone, or add a detail that is missed or forgotten. The leader/ storyteller should try to act as a facilitator for this activity. Do not push the story forward, allow your story group to do that.

- Drama. It is often helpful to re-enact the story. Choose parts and then tell the story by demonstrating how it might have looked at the time. This is especially effective with children.

Songs:

- Every Move I Make
- Peace Like a River
- Deep and Wide

Re-Tell the Story:

Finally, the story teller may want to re-tell the story one more time. Repetition is a key to memory.

Prayer:

Close your session with prayer.

Every Move I Make

David Ruis

G C D
Every move I make I make in you,

 C G
You make me move, Jesus.

 C D
Every breath I take I breath in you.

G C D
Every step I take I take in you

 C G
You are my way, Jesus.

 C D C G
Every breath I take I breathe in you.

- Am Bm Am G
- Waves of mercy, waves of grace,
 Am Bm Am G
 - Everywhere I look I see your face.
 Am Bm Am G
 - Your love has captured me
 Am Bm Am G
 - O my God, this love, how can it be?

Na, na, na, na...

La, la, la, la...

Deep and Wide

G C

Deep and wide, Deep and wide,

G D

There's a fountain flowing deep and wide.

G C

Deep and wide, Deep and wide,

G D G

There's a fountain flowing deep and wide.

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JESUS CALMS THE STORM- MARK 4.35-41

Objective: To understand Jesus' relationship to nature.

Theme: Jesus is all-powerful.

Memory Verse: But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" **Mark 4.40**

Review:

Review the previous story. Ask the group what things that they remember about the story. You can even use some of the questions from that story. In fact, it could be a good exercise to have another group re-telling of the story.

Story:

Here is a story from God's Word.

One day, when it was starting to get dark, Jesus said to his followers, "Let's go to the other side of the sea." So they all left the crowd that had been following Jesus and got into a boat. There were other little boats that were following them as well. While they were rowing across the sea a storm came up. There was a great wind and the waves made it very hard to row. But Jesus wasn't worried. He was asleep on a pillow in the back of the boat.

Jesus' friends and followers woke him up and asked him, "Don't you care that we are going to die in this storm?"

Then Jesus stood up and spoke to the wind and the sea. He said, "Be peaceful and still." The wind calmed down right away and everything got quiet.

When everything returned to normal, Jesus turned to his followers and asked them, "Why are you so afraid? Don't you have any faith?"

This made all of Jesus' followers really afraid. They said to each other, "Who is that that even the wind and the sea do what he says?"

This was a story from God's Word.

Discussion Questions:

- What do we learn about Jesus in the story?
- What can you tell about the disciples?
- Why were the disciples so afraid?
- Have you had storms in your life? What did you do?
- What did the disciples do?
- Have you ever asked Jesus to help you through a storm? Why not ask him now?

Activities:

- Re-Tell the story. As a group go over the story again. Take turns giving the high points of the story. You can have each person take turns recounting the events that take place next, but don't be afraid to stop and correct someone, or add a detail that is missed or forgotten. The leader/ storyteller should try to act as a facilitator for this activity. Do not push the story forward, allow your story group to do that.
- Drama. It is often helpful to re-enact the story. Choose parts and then tell the story by demonstrating how it might have looked at the time. This is especially effective with children.
- Human Hammock. This is an activity that requires groups of five to seven people. In the group, four persons (or six) will form pairs and face one another lining up shoulder to shoulder with the other partners. Each member of a pair should hold both hands with his or her partner. Now that the four persons are holding hands with one another, they have formed a "hammock". The fifth member of the group can sit, or lie on the hands in the center of the group. Take turns letting each member of the group sit in the "hammock."

Songs:

- Every Move I Make
- Awesome God
- Row, Row, Row Your Boat
- I Found Strength

Prayer:

Close your session with prayer.

Every Move I Make

David Ruis

G C D
Every move I make I make in you,

 C G
You make me move, Jesus.

 C D
Every breath I take I breath in you.

G C D
Every step I take I take in you

 C G
You are my way, Jesus.

 C D C G
Every breath I take I breathe in you.

- Am Bm Am G
- Waves of mercy, waves of grace,
 Am Bm Am G
 - Everywhere I look I see your face.
 Am Bm Am G
 - Your love has captured me
 Am Bm Am G
 - O my God, this love, how can it be?

Na, na, na, na...

La, la, la, la...

Awesome God

Rich Mullins

D A
Our God is an awesome God.

E F#m
He reigns from heaven above

D A
with wisdom, pow'r and love

Bm7 C#m7 F#m
Our God is an awesome God

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

G

Row, row, row your boat,

Gently down the stream.

Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,

D

G

Life is but a dream.

I Found Strength

Am

G

I found strength in the Lord my God.

Am

G

I found strength in the Lord my God.

E

He came to me

Am

G

Am

And there I found my strength.

I found love...

I found peace...

I found joy...

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THE DEMON POSSESSED MAN- MARK 5.1-20

Objective: To understand Jesus' relationship to the spirit world.

Theme: Jesus has authority over demons.

Memory Verse: Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you. **Mark 5.19**

Review:

Review the previous story. Ask the group what things that they remember about the story. You can even use some of the questions from that story. In fact, it could be a good exercise to have another group re-telling of the story.

Story:

This is a story from God's Word.

Jesus and his followers got to the shore, in the country that was known as the Gadarenes. As soon as they got out of the boat, they were met by a man who lived in the graveyard; no one could control this man. They tried to contain him with chains and locks, but nothing worked. He was inhabited by an evil demon which made him extremely strong. He would break the chains and shackles. No one could control him in any way. This man was hiding in the mountains and in the tombs night and day. He was always calling out and cutting himself with sharp rocks.

When he saw Jesus coming, he ran toward him and began to worship him. He cried out loudly, "What do you want from me, Jesus? I know that you are the Son of God, please don't hurt me."

Jesus said to him, "Demon, come out of this man." Then Jesus continued by asking him, "What is your name?"

The man replied to Jesus, "I am called Legion; because there are a lot of us." Then he begged Jesus that he would not be sent out of the country.

It just so happened that there was a large herd of pigs grazing close by. So the demons begged Jesus, "Why don't you send us into those pigs? We could live in them." And so Jesus gave them permission right away. So the demons left the man and went into the pigs. (There were about

two thousand pigs.) As soon as the spirits were in the pigs, they took off running. They went down a steep part of the mountain and fell into the sea, where they drowned.

Now the farmers who took care of the pigs took off toward the city. They told everyone they met, in the city and the country, what happened with the pigs. So a crowd came out to find Jesus and to see what had happened. When they got to Jesus they found him with the man they all knew to be demon-possessed. But he was clothed, in his right mind and sitting at the feet of Jesus. This made everyone a little afraid. Those who had witnessed the miracle told the others what had happened, how the one who was possessed was delivered, and about the pigs. The crowd then began to beg Jesus to leave the area.

Jesus got back in his boat to leave, and the man who had been possessed asked if he could go with Jesus. But Jesus wouldn't let him. Instead, he told him, "Go back home and tell your friends and family about all that the Lord has done for you. Especially tell them about the compassion of God." So he left to return to his home area where he told people what Jesus had done for him. This caused everyone to be impressed.

This is a true story from God's Word.

Discussion Questions:

- What was this man's problem?
- How did he know that Jesus was the Son of God?
- Why was he cutting himself?
- Did you notice that Jesus left the crowd to be with this man? Why would he do that?
- Have you ever asked God to help you with a spiritual problem? Would you like to now?

Activities:

- Re-Tell the story. As a group go over the story again. Take turns giving the high points of the story. You can have each person take turns recounting the events that take place next, but don't be afraid to stop and correct someone, or add a detail that is missed or forgotten. The leader/ storyteller should try to act as a facilitator for this activity. Do not push the story forward, allow your story group to do that.
- Drama. It is often helpful to re-enact the story. Choose parts and then tell the story by demonstrating how it might have looked at the time. This is especially effective with children.

- Red Rover. Divide your group into two teams. Instruct each team to line up side by side facing one another on opposite ends of the yard. Each person should hold hands with the person on either side. The first team will then choose a team member of the other team. Once the team member is picked the team should chant:

“Red Rover, Red Rover,
Send Johnny right over.”

Johnny will then run across the playing area and crash into the hands of the other team. If he is able to break through, he is allowed to take one player from the other team back to his side. If he does not break through the hands, he becomes a member of the original team. The team with the most players at the end of time will be the winner.

- Freeze Tag. One person will designated as “it”. Her responsibility is to chase and then tag the other children. Each child who gets tagged is “frozen” into place and must stay that way. The only hope for a frozen child is that another child will come along to tag them. If they are tagged by a not-frozen child, the first child will be unfrozen.

Songs:

- Awesome God

Prayer:

Close your session with prayer.

Awesome God

Rich Mullins

D A
Our God is an awesome God.

E F#m
He reigns from heaven above

D A
with wisdom, pow'r and love

Bm7 C#m7 F#m
Our God is an awesome God

Bible Stories 1.0

NICODEMUS- JOHN 3.1-17

Objective: To understand Jesus' relationship to heaven and eternity.

Theme: God wants everyone to be born again.

Memory Verse: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **John 3.16**

Review:

Review the previous story. Ask the group what things that they remember about the story. You can even use some of the questions from that story. In fact, it could be a good exercise to have another group re-telling of the story.

Story:

This is a true story from God's Word.

Nicodemus was a member of the Pharisees, he had some authority over the Jewish people. One night he came to see Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you have come to us from God. We know this because no one could do the kind of things that you are doing if they were not from God."

Jesus said to him, "I am telling you the truth, you have to be born again if you want to get into the kingdom of God."

That statement confused Nicodemus, so he answered, "How can someone be born when he is an adult? Can he go back inside his mother and come out again?"

But Jesus said, "This is the truth: You have to be born of water and Spirit if you want to get into the kingdom of God. Everyone who is born in a natural way is natural, and those who are born from the Holy Spirit is spiritual. Don't be amazed that I told you, 'You have to be born again.' You see, the wind blows wherever it wants to. You can hear it, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes. This is the same as those people who are born of the Holy Spirit."

Nicodemus said, "How can all this be?"

Jesus replied, "Aren't you a teacher? Shouldn't you know these things? I will tell you the truth, we speak about what we know, and we share the things that we see, but you still don't believe me. I have told you about earthly things that you didn't believe, how can you believe when I tell you about these heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven. That is, the Son of Man who is from heaven. Remember that Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness to save the nation of Israel. In the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up. Everyone who believes in him will not perish. He will have everlasting life. You see, God loves the world so much that he sent his only Son into the world that anyone who would believe in him would not perish but have everlasting life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge and condemn us, but that we all could be saved through him.

And this is a true story from God's Word.

Discussion Questions:

- Why did Nicodemus want to learn? Why did he come at night?
- Why is it so hard to understand spiritual things?
- What does it mean to be "born again"? To be born of the Spirit?
- What is the main message of this story?
- What must a person do to have eternal life? Would you like to do that now?

Activities:

- Re-Tell the story. As a group go over the story again. Take turns giving the high points of the story. You can have each person take turns recounting the events that take place next, but don't be afraid to stop and correct someone, or add a detail that is missed or forgotten. The leader/ storyteller should try to act as a facilitator for this activity. Do not push the story forward, allow your story group to do that.
- Drama. It is often helpful to re-enact the story. Choose parts and then tell the story by demonstrating how it might have looked at the time. This is especially effective with children.

Songs:

- This Little Light
- Let Your Light

- Who Made the Twinkling Stars

Prayer:

Close your session with prayer.

This Little Light of Mine

G

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

C

G

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Em

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

G

D

G

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Shine my light till Jesus comes...

Hide it under a bushel? No!...

Won't let Satan blow it out...

Who Made the Twinkling Stars?

G

Who made the twinkling stars?

D

The twinkling stars?

G

The twinkling stars?

Who made the twinkling stars?

D

G

Our Father, God!

Who made the birds that fly...

Who made the fish that swim...

Who made you and I...

Bible Stories 1.0

THE BLIND BEGGAR- MARK 10. 46-52

Objective: To understand Jesus' relationship to those who are in need.

Theme: God cares about your physical needs.

Memory Verse: "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road. **Mark 10.52**

Review:

Review the previous story. Ask the group what things that they remember about the story. You can even use some of the questions from that story. In fact, it could be a good exercise to have another group re-telling of the story.

Story:

This is a story from God's Word.

One day, when Jesus and his friends were leaving the town of Jericho, they were joined by a very large crowd. As they were walking, a man known as blind Bartimaeus, who was the son of Timaeus, who was begging by the side of the road heard that Jesus from Nazareth was passing by. He called out to Jesus and said, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many people in the crowd told Bartimaeus to be quiet; but he called out even more loudly, "Have mercy on me, son of David."

That was when Jesus stopped and asked for Bartimaeus to be brought to him.

Then they called out to the blind man, and said to him, "Cheer up and get up. Jesus is calling you!"

So he got up, threw off his cloak and came to Jesus.

Jesus asked the man, "What is it that you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to be able to see."

So Jesus said, "Go ahead about your business; you are being healed because of your faith." Right away he was able to see and so he followed Jesus down the road.

And that's a story from God's Word.

Discussion Questions:

- What was Bartimaeus' life like before he met Jesus?
- Why did people tell him to be quiet?
- What is God's attitude to the outcast?
- What is the response of Bartimaeus to Jesus?
- What is the connection between physical and spiritual sight?
- How would a person today follow Jesus? Will you follow him?

Activities:

- Re-Tell the story. As a group go over the story again. Take turns giving the high points of the story. You can have each person take turns recounting the events that take place next, but don't be afraid to stop and correct someone, or add a detail that is missed or forgotten. The leader/ storyteller should try to act as a facilitator for this activity. Do not push the story forward, allow your story group to do that.
- Drama. It is often helpful to re-enact the story. Choose parts and then tell the story by demonstrating how it might have looked at the time. This is especially effective with children.
- Follow the Leader. Begin with the storyteller serving as the leader. All the children should line up in single file behind the leader. The leader begins by walking, hopping, skipping, running, galloping, etc. The children following should do the same things as the leader. Take turns letting other children lead the group.
- Trust Walk. Divide your group into pairs. In each pair one person will be the leader and the other will be "blind." The blind child will close his/ her eyes and the guide child will take his/ her arm and lead the blind child. Take turns doing this to help learn a little bit of what it means to be blind.

- Three Steps. For this game you need a defined boundary for your playing area. It must be clear on every side and understood by all those who are playing. One person is designated as “it”, blindfolded and put in the center of the playing area. Other players are also in this same area, but they are trying not to be tagged by “it”. As “it” makes his way around the area the other players are allowed three steps to not be tagged. If they are tagged they are out and must leave the playing area. If they take more than three steps they are also out.

Songs:

- Blind Man
- Joy (I’ve Got it Here)

Prayer:

Close your session with prayer.

Blind Man

Am G F E

Blind Man stood on the road and cried

Am G F E

Blind Man stood on the road and cried

Am G F E

Blind Man stood on the road and cried, he cried, Oh-oh-oh

Am G F E

Show me the way-ay-ay

Am G F E

Show me the way-ay-ay

Am G F E

Show me the way-ay-ay

Am G F E

The way to go home.

Leper stood on the road and cried...

Beggar stood on the road and cried...

Have you ever stood on the road and cried...

Jesus stood on the road and cried...

I am the way

I am the truth

I am the life

The way to go home.

Joy

G *C*
I've got joy (joy), joy (joy), joy (joy)!

G *C*
I've got joy (joy), joy (joy), joy (joy)!

G *C*
I've got joy (joy), joy (joy), joy (joy)!

G *C* *G* *D*
I've got it here, I've got it here, I've got it here, I've got it here.

G *C* *G* *D*
I've got it here, I've got it here, I've got it here, I've got it here.

G *C* *G* *D*
I've got it here, I've got it here, I've got it here, I've got it here.

C *G* *C* *G*
I've got it down in my heart, down in my heart,

C *G* *D*
Down in my heart to stay.

G
Down in my heart to stay.