

City SG—February 27th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Anytime You Need a Friend (Jesus Heals Bartimaeus) • *Mark 10:46-52*

Today's Bottom Line: Make time to help others.

Monthly Memory Verse: *The LORD has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.* Micah 6:8 (NIV)

1. Partner-Up Help

Non-Reader Option highlighted below

What You Need: "Jesus Heals Bartimaeus Pictures" (1 set of 8 per group), blindfolds (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- **Be sure you have enough blindfolds for your group, so no one has to share. Get fresh blindfolds after each service, put used blindfolds in a bin.**
- Guide the kids to pair up. Have both kids put the blindfold over their head and hang it around their neck.
- Have pairs stand and choose one kid to be blindfolded first.
- Once a kid from each pair pulls up their blindfolded, scatter the Activity Pictures around your small group space.
- Select one pair to go first. The "seeing" partner will guide their blindfolded partner to one of the pictures.
- The blindfolded kid will pick it up and the seeing kid will guide them back to sit in their original spot.
- Repeat, one at a time, until all pictures have been retrieved.
 - There are eight pictures so some pairs will go twice.
 - Make sure kids switch which partner is blindfolded so as many kids as possible get a chance to be blindfolded.
- Let the kids take off their blindfolds once all pictures are retrieved.
- Guide kids to identify what's happening in each picture and put them in order from the Bible story.
- **Read the words on the pictures for the Group.**
- Picture order:
 - 1: Jericho sign (*Jesus and his followers came to Jericho. A large crowd followed them.*)
 - 2: Bartimaeus saying "Jesus, have mercy!" (*On the road, there was a blind man named Bartimaeus calling out to Jesus. He knew Jesus could help him.*)
 - 3: Jesus saying, "Call him!" (*Jesus told the crowd to call for the man.*)
 - 4: Crowd saying, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you!" (*The crowd told the man that Jesus wanted to see him!*)
 - 5: Blind man saying, "Rabbi, I want to see." (*The blind man tells Jesus what he needs.*)
 - 6: Jesus saying, "Go. Your faith has healed you." (*Jesus takes time to heal the man.*)
 - 7: The blind man sees! (*Bartimaeus is excited to be healed.*)
 - 8: The man following Jesus and the disciples.

What You Say:

"Bartimaeus had heard about Jesus and he recognized, although he was blind, that Jesus was the one who could help him! So he yelled out 'Jesus, have mercy on me!' A large crowd was travelling with Jesus. It would have been easy for Jesus to ignore the man's cries. But Jesus didn't do that. Jesus stopped and called for the man. And then Jesus healed Bartimaeus. Though He was busy and SO many people wanted His attention, Jesus took the time to help this man. Jesus showed compassion for him and did what only He could do!"

"We can't heal the sick or make the blind see because we're NOT Jesus. But we CAN **[Bottom Line]** make time to help others. We can stop whatever it is we're doing when we see someone in need. We can listen, pay attention, and help. It might not be the first thing we want to do. It might be inconvenient; but stopping to help someone else is always worth our time."

[Make it Personal] (Tell kids about a time someone took the time to help you when they didn't have to. Maybe someone came to the rescue when you had a flat tire or gave you a jump when your car battery died. Maybe someone brought you a meal or mowed your lawn when you were sick. How did their willingness to make time to help make you feel?)

2. Stacking Story Review

Non-Reader Option highlighted below

What You Need: “Stacking Story Review” Slips (3 sets per Group), and Bibles

What You Do:

- Read the Bible story out loud from Mark 10:46-52 to your group.
- Divide kids into groups of two to four kids.
- Give each group a shuffled set of “Stacking Story Review” phrases.
- Instruct the kids to scramble the phrases up facedown on the floor in front of them.
- On your “GO!”, instruct the kids to work together to arrange the phrases in story order.
- **Numbers will be on the sheets for the kids to reference/put in order.**
- Direct the kids to stack the phrases into a tower in the correct order of the story. (They can refer to their Bibles if needed.)

What You Say:

“That was a lot of fun, and you guys did such a great job of working together to get the story in the right order. Jesus was busy, but He still stopped to help Bartimaeus. What do you think Jesus was on His way to do when Bartimaeus stopped Him? (Allow kids to answer—He was traveling to Jerusalem; no answer is wrong) We may not know exactly what Jesus was on His way to do, but we do know He took time to help and heal Bartimaeus. Just like Jesus, we can **[Bottom Line] make time to help others.**”

3. Busy Hand Maze

What You Need: “Mazes 1-5” Activity Pages (1 per kid), plastic bingo chips (12 per group), pens and markers

What You Do:

- Tell kids to wait for instructions, then give each kid a “Maze” Activity page, and some markers.
 - NOTE: There are 5 different mazes, and they will be handed out at random to your kids.
- Invite the kids to **decorate** their maze with the markers **but not solve it**.
- Give each kid a plastic bingo chip.
- Instruct them to move the chips through the maze until it gets to the end.
- Once everyone has finished their maze, remind them of the Bible story.
 - Jesus was busy—super busy. After all, He is Jesus.
 - But Bartimaeus asked for His help, so Jesus changed the direction of what He was doing and where He was going.
 - Jesus was headed somewhere else, but He made time to help someone in need.
 - He changed the direction of His day to help someone else.
 - Jesus stopped to see Bartimaeus and the need He had. Then He did something to help.
 - Just like Jesus, there are a lot of people in our lives, and sometimes it takes us changing our plans and the direction of our day for us to see them and help them when they have a need.
- Kids can trade with someone else and do a new maze as time allows!

What You Say:

“To get your dot to the end of the maze, you had to change directions a few times, and it definitely took longer than just a straight line. Sometimes we can be really busy.

Maybe we have school all day and then head to practice and your family grabs something to eat while driving to your cousins’ house and you’re just busy. Even in your busyness, did you stop to ask the adult in your life how their day was when you got in the car with them?

“Or maybe you’re working on your homework and your little sister asks you a question about her homework and you’re just too busy to help. What are some ways you and your family get busy? (*Allow kids time to share.*) What does it mean to change direction? (*Move in a different way than where you were headed.*) Just like Jesus changed the direction of His day for Bartimaeus, who do you need to change direction for today? Maybe while you’re headed to a friend’s house down the street, you can stop to ask your little sister if she wants to join you. Or you can stop by your mom’s bedroom on the way to the kitchen and ask if she needs anything.

[Make it Personal] (*Share a kid-appropriate story of when someone made time to help you. This could be as simple as a friend taking time to listen to you when something was bothering you or a time your mom took off work when you were sick and stayed home with you.*) Because this person changed the direction of their day for me, I hope it encourages you to **[Bottom Line]** make time to help others.”

4. Memory Verse Neighborhood

Non-Reader Option highlighted below

What You Need: “Memory Verse Neighborhood” Page (1 per kid), Non-reader example sheet(1 per Group), Bible, pens, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid an Activity Page to color.
- Point out the verse and the missing words at the bottom of the page.
- Read Micah 6:8 aloud to the kids. Challenge them to think about the words that are missing.
- **For non-readers, show the yellow Completed Activity Page for the kids to copy.**
- The missing words are: good, act, love, and humble.
- Remind kids to put their names on their pages.

What You Say:

“What a GREAT verse we learned this month. When we act justly and do what’s right, love mercy and show love, walk humbly and put others first, we show compassion for others. When we **[Bottom Line]** make time to help others, we can show God’s love to others. Remember, ‘to act justly’ means ‘to do what is right.’ God always does what is right. God loves and forgives. So when we love and forgive and do what’s right, we show God’s love and compassion to others.”

5. Pray and Dismiss

“God, thank You for Your great love and care for us. We know we can only show compassion because You are compassionate to us! This week, we want to be friends that **[Bottom Line]** make time to help others. When we’re tempted to keep doing what we want to do, will You remind us to show compassion and care instead? Help us treat others the way we want to be treated. We love You so much, and it’s in Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”