

When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.

Program A-2

BLIND MAN & MUD

John 9:1-41

Life of Jesus 1 Series: Lesson #8

Bible Verse: **Jesus loves us. Rev. 1:5**

Past Verses: **Nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37**
Teach others about Jesus. Matthew 28:20
Jesus said, "Quiet, be still." Mark 4:39
Jesus made sick people well. Luke 4:40
A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17
Jesus said, "Come follow me." Matthew 4:19
Jesus grew. Luke 2:40

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: Jesus is kind and loving.

Prop ideas: Dirt and water. Mix to make mud.

A dirty item (coin, rock); wash off as you tell the story.

Dress as a blind person. (Dark sunglasses, white cane, bring a German shepherd or golden retriever as a seeing-eye dog)

SAMPLE STORY

For Younger children tell parts A & C.

For Older Children tell parts A, B & C.

Part A

One Sabbath day Jesus and his disciples saw a man who had been blind all his life. He was born blind. Jesus spit on the ground and made mud. He placed the mud on the man's eyes and told him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man went and washed just as Jesus had told him. He was now able to see!

His neighbors asked "Isn't that the man who was born blind? Isn't he the one we used to see begging for money? Look that man...He can see now!" Others said, "That can't be him. It just looks like him." They had no faith that Jesus had done a miracle. The man told the people "It is me. I am the man who has been blind all my life. It's true. This man Jesus put mud on my eyes and told me to wash in the Pool of Siloam. I did what he said and now I can see."

Part B

Some people were not happy that Jesus had healed this man. They were upset that he healed on the Sabbath. (The Sabbath is the 7th day

of the week and the day of rest. Today most Christian celebrate the Sabbath on Sunday, the 1st day of the week). These enemies of Jesus thought that he was breaking a law by healing someone on the Sabbath. But, Jesus knew that it was more important to be loving and kind on the Sabbath than to worry about breaking rules men had made concerning the Sabbath. God does have a commandment (rule, law) that we should keep the Sabbath holy. We should take a break from our regular work to worship. That's why we come to church and Sunday School. But it is also important to always be loving and kind, no matter what day it is.

Part C

Jesus was kind and loving to heal this man. He loves us too. The Bible even tells this in Revelations 1:5: *Jesus loves us*. Let's say our Bible verse together.

FYI

First Session Classes will be:

- Making/Eating Mud Cups
- Singing and Praising
- Playing "Leading the Blind"

SIMPLE EXTRAS:

Play Follow-the-Leader. Have everyone hold hands and ask everyone to close their eyes, except the leader.

Play I Spy. I spy with my little eye, something red, something big, something... Let them have a turn spying.

Play Hot/cold game. Hide an object and give hints to where it may be and say warm, warmer, hot! When they are near. (Works best if only one child at a time searches)

Duck, duck, goose – classic favorite

Ring around the Rosies

Simon Says – remember that the blind man had to OBEY Jesus first!

READING BOOKS

Teacher Extra: Bring your favorite children's books from home. Books like *I Spy*, *Where's Waldo* & similar books are good to reinforce using our eyes to see.

Materials: Books (In room)

Do: You can either read to the whole class at once for an organized story-time, or you can sit on the floor and let a few children gather around or in your lap for a less formal story-time

Talk about: Point out the details in the picture. Ask them to describe what they see. God gave us eyes to see. We can thank God for our eyesight.

PIN THE SHAPE ON THE FACE

Materials: Large Sheet of Paper
Various shapes
Blue tape
Blindfold
Markers (In room)

Do: Using a marker, draw a large circle on the paper for a head. (When the children tape the shapes in place, they will be the eyes, nose, mouth, etc.)
Tape to wall or cabinet at child height, using **blue tape**. (*Regular tape can mar the paint on the walls. If using cabinet, it is OK to use regular tape*).
Place loops of blue tape on the shapes. (*If you desire you may add lines and features to the shapes to make them look like eyes, mouth nose, ears, etc.*)
Either place blindfold on child or have him/her close eyes.
Hand him/her a shape to 'pin' on the head.
Repeat parts of the Bible story as they 'pin' shapes on.
When all the shapes are on, admire your funny face. Remove shapes and begin again.

Talk about: It's hard to place everything in the 'right place' when you cannot see. We can do a lot more with our eyes open than with them shut. The man born blind could do a lot more now that he could see. Do you think he was happy to be able to see? What do you think he could do now that he could not do before?

WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

Materials: Paper sack
Various items with different textures

Do: Place items in the sack.
Let children take turns reaching into the bag and feeling for one item. They should describe how it feels and guess what it is.
Repeat as long as interest holds.

Talk about: Can you tell what something is without seeing it? Sometimes you can. If you were blind you would have to use your sense of touch, smell and hearing to figure out what things were. The man born blind could not see his way around his village. How do you think he moved about?

Variation: Let the children find items in the room with varying textures to include or just for 'show and tell.' Group them by similarities: smooth, rough, fuzzy, etc.