

October 24, 2021

I Can See! Based on Mark 10:46–52



Every day blind Bartimaeus would hold out his begging bowl as he sat by the side of the road near the town of Jericho. Bartimaeus knew this town well. When it was springtime, he could tell by the feel of the warm breeze and the scent of the harvested wheat and barley. When it was autumn, he could tell by the crisp chill of the air and by the smell of herbs, and grapes, and later the olives that farmers brought to market in their creaking carts. Bartimaeus knew everything that happened on that road. He heard the merchants in their booths hawking their fresh produce. He heard the buyers and sellers haggling over the price of every item, from the most expensive tapestry to a handful of lentils. He heard the bleating sheep and goats being herded into their stalls. And he heard the children laughing and squealing in delight as they ran and played with each other. Yes, Bartimaeus knew his town, but he longed to see what he could hear, smell, and feel.

Now Bartimaeus had heard stories of how Jesus could cure all kinds of illness. And Bartimaeus made up his mind that if ever Jesus came to Jericho, he would ask for his help.

Then one day, Jesus came.

Bartimaeus heard the noise of a great crowd of people coming along the road. He heard their whispering, laughing, and excited voices. “What is it? What is it?” he called out. “Tell me what you can see.”

“Haven’t you heard?” answered someone. “Jesus is passing this way and we’re all watching for him. He is coming right now.”

Bartimaeus’ heart began to beat faster. He could not see but there was nothing wrong with his voice! Bartimaeus began to shout, “Jesus of Nazareth, help me. Please, help me!”

Now the crowd was surrounding Jesus.

“Jesus of Nazareth,” Bartimaeus raised his voice even louder, “please be kind to me!”

Many people around Bartimaeus sternly ordered him to be quiet, but Bartimaeus cried out even more loudly, “Jesus of Nazareth, please be kind to me!”

And then Bartimaeus heard one voice above everyone else. It was Jesus’ voice. Bartimaeus stood up and stretched out his hands to feel his way to Jesus.

Jesus looked at Bartimaeus lovingly and asked, “What do you want me to do for you?”

“Oh, Jesus,” said Bartimaeus, “you have the wisdom to open our eyes to many wonders of God’s way. Please make my eyes see again.”

And then Bartimaeus felt Jesus’ gentle hands on his eyelids. He heard Jesus say, “Your eyes may see, because you believed.” Bartimaeus stood very still hardly believing what was happening to him. He lifted his head and colours swirled all around. God’s beautiful world was full of colour. And then Bartimaeus saw Jesus. Bartimaeus shouted and sang for joy. He could really see!

From that day on, Bartimaeus would follow Jesus. Bartimaeus would tell everyone about this wonderful miracle!

Seasons of the Spirit, Seasons Fusion, Season of Creation, Pentecost 2, 2012, Wood Lake Publishing

Questions:

1. Being blind and seeing are used as metaphors in this story. What could Bartimaeus ‘see’ about Jesus even when his eyes were blind? What were the crowds around Bartimaeus “blind” to even though they had seeing eyes?
2. If you could help people “open their eyes” to an injustice, what would you like them to see?
3. Imagine that you were able to change something in your community, what would that be?

Activities:

Imagine interviewing people who were there in Jericho the day Bartimaeus met Jesus. Choose one person to be the interviewer and the others to take on the roles of the following people. If possible record the conversations so they can be replayed as a radio program. (Take turns interviewing people.)

- People in the crowd who first of all told Bartimaeus to be quiet.

- People in the community who had known Bartimaeus all his life.
- People who encountered Bartimaeus on the road after he could see again

(place crossword and Bartimaeus Meets Jesus sheets here)

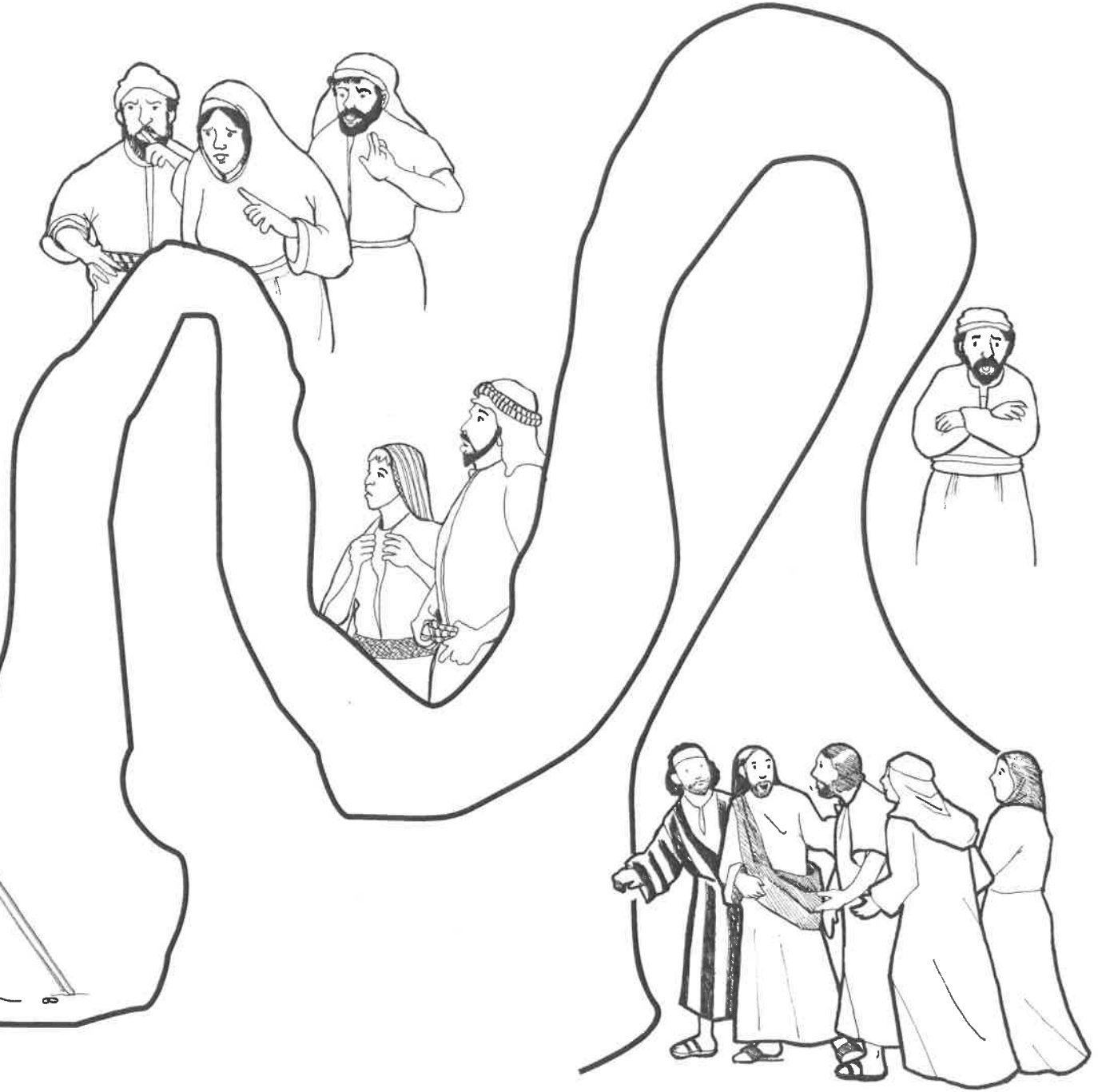
Next Sunday is Halloween, a high holy day for children on which they work on facing fears.

Most children are just beginning to think about it, but it will be THE topic of conversation as the week goes on. So, invite children to praise God who is greater and more powerful than any monster, evil or scary thing they will encounter this week. Also pray with them for help remembering that even in our costumes and behind our masks we are still ourselves. We are still God's children and often need God's help to act like that.



Bartimaeus Meets Jesus

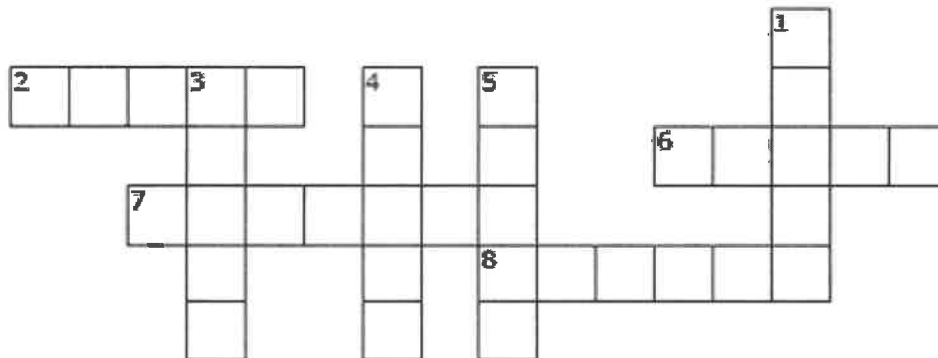
Help Bartimaeus find his way to Jesus. Close your eyes. Have a friend give you directions as you move your pencil along the path. Sometimes the path will be narrower and more difficult. Some people are trying to stop Bartimaeus and want him to be quiet. Listen carefully to your friend so that you can help Bartimaeus pass by the people who want to stop him. Was it easy? Was it hard? How close did you get to Jesus? Now help your friend find the way to Jesus.



Blind Bartimaeus



"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." Mark 10:51 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. Kind or compassionate treatment
6. Making little or no noise
7. Making an urgent plea; asking for charity
8. To be restored to health; cured

DOWN

1. Unable to see
3. To make happier or more joyful; a shout of encouragement
4. Confident belief in the truth
5. The ability to see

blind
begging

mercy
quiet

cheer
faith

healed
sight