

Lesson Plans that Work
Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 25
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52

Background: During the last weeks of Ordinary Time in Lectionary Cycle B, the Gospel of Mark, our primary guide, continues. The kingdom of God is open for all people. We hear this message in the readings about the rich man, the disciples jockeying for position, the blind man, the saints, the poor widow, and even Pilate as he queries Jesus about being a king. We don't have to pass an entrance exam; we are already in the kingdom. Through all the changes that occur in our lives, what will not change is God's love for each of us. The kingdom that Jesus is proclaiming is already here and yet is also still to come – the undercurrent of Advent, which is coming near.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

No ceremony, no pomposity, no swooping in with fuss and feathers. No needs assessments, no programs. Jesus simply stands before the pleading blind man and asks: "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus can see that this man has gathered all his courage to ask: "My sight." Jesus affirms the man's courage and assures him his faith will make him well.

Theme: Blindness and Faith

Before Class: You may need crayons and paper.

Note: this lesson assumes you have no sight-impaired children in your class. If you do have a child who is seeing impaired, you will need to adapt the lesson.

Beginning: Tell the children that today we have a story about a man who was blind. Does anyone know anyone who is blind? (If there is a blind person in your church, ask the children how that person gets around.) (Seeing-eye dog? Cane?)

Let's see if we can imagine what it might be like not to be able to see. Ask each child to find a partner – and if you have an uneven number of children, you can partner with a child. One child will "pretend" to be blind – covering eyes with a hand. The other child will be the guide. The "seeing" child will direct the child around the room with helpful suggestions: "The table is right in front of you – take a step to one side – no, the other side, that's right." Continue until the "seeing" child has guided the "blind" child all around the room. Then, switch roles, so the "blind" child becomes the "seeing" child and guides the "blind" child around the room. Once everyone has experienced this, bring the children back together and ask them what other senses they used when they could not use their sense of sight (touch, smell, hearing, etc.) Ask them what it was like to help the person who could not see.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, for eyes that can see. And thank you for friends who help those who cannot see. Amen.

The Story: Mark: 10:46-52 Jesus and his friends were walking out of the town of Jericho. It would soon be dark, so they were hurrying. A blind man whose name was Bartimaeus was sitting by the side of the road. When the blind man figured out that Jesus was walking by, he started to yell out: "Jesus, please help me!"

Well, Jesus' friends wanted to hurry on so they went over to Bartimaeus and said: "Shhh! Be quiet! Jesus is busy." But Bartimaeus would not be quiet. He kept on yelling: "Jesus, please help me!"

Jesus stopped and told his disciples: tell that man to come over here where I am. Well, Bartimaeus got so excited that he threw off his coat and rushed up to Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked Bartimaeus. "Teacher, let me be able to see!" So Jesus healed the man so he could see. The man was so very happy that he decided to become one of Jesus' friends and follow him where he went.

Activity: Tell the children you would like to see a play about this story and you think they could put on a play for you. They can take turns being Jesus and being Bartimaeus. Those who have neither part can be the friends of Jesus who try to silence Bartimaeus.

Sit while they put on the play for you. Be sure to applaud vigorously at the completion of the play.

Getting Closure: If time permits, as a group, color a picture of what happened to Bartimaeus to put with the other pictures you have been posting.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for eyes that can see. Help us to serve you and those who we meet on our journey. Amen

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