

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 22 March 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Miracles of Jesus / Jesus walks on water
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Mark 10:46-52
- **CONCEPT:** Jesus has the power to heal

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that the same Jesus who healed Bartimaeus is the same Jesus who takes care of us.
- To invite kids to accept Jesus as their Saviour.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with tin of sardines inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Story set-up: Slides with various letters of differing font sizes, something like the eyesight test you may undergo when visiting an optician
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box
- ✓ Evangelical literature

and friends. Imagine you can't see yourself in the mirror to look at your clothes and fix your hair the way you like it. Imagine you can't see where it's safe to walk. Imagine you can't see God's beautiful creation that we learnt about a few weeks ago. You don't know what the flowers and trees look like, or what colour the sky and the sea is, or how big an elephant is, or how small a mouse is. You can't see anything! How terrible!

Open your eyes. Tell me what you would miss seeing most if you were blind. What do you think is the worst thing about being blind?
Encourage some discussion.

3. Tell the story

Jesus and his disciples – the twelve men Jesus had chosen to follow Him and learn from Him – were travelling. They had left Galilee and headed south, crossed over the Jordan River, and they were now in a big city called Jericho. As usual, there was a big crowd of people following them around. People who were amazed at the wonderful things this man Jesus was doing and who wanted to see more.

There was a man who lived in Jericho whose name was Bartimaeus. We can call him 'Bart' for short. Every day, Bart went outside the city and sat at the side of the road, waiting for people to pass by. Bart didn't have a job. Nobody would give Bart a job so he couldn't earn any money by working. This was the only way he could scrape together a few pennies to get something to eat. You see, Bart was blind. In those days, there were no special hospitals or eye doctors to help Bart. There was no one to help teach poor Bart how to work and look after himself. He didn't have a guide dog to show him where to walk. Instead, Bart just sat at the side of the road, begging people for some money. What a sad life for poor Bart.

One day, Bart was sitting by the road as usual. He heard a lot of people making their way down the road. Feet tramping along the dusty road, people chattering, laughing excitedly. What was happening? Bart got the feeling that something unusual was going on. There wasn't usually such a big crowd of people coming down this road. Remember, Bart couldn't see, but he listened carefully.

"Help a poor blind man," Bart said as the people walked by. He was a little bit frightened at the noise of so many people passing by, but he knew there was a better chance of getting more coins from more people. "Please spare me some money. Please help me," said Bart.

Something stopped Bart. *Pause.* He stopped begging. He stopped rattling the coins in his little dish. He sat up straight to listen more closely to the crowds of people. He thought he heard someone mention that man's name, that miracle man. He listened carefully. *Gasp!* There it was again! JESUS! These people were following Jesus! Bart had heard the stories about this incredible man and the things he had been doing for people. Bart had heard that this Jesus had calmed a storm out on the Sea of Galilee, that He had fed thousands of people up in the mountains with only five small loaves of bread and two fish, that He had made sick people well again! Maybe this was Bart's moment! Maybe this was his chance of getting his sight back again! If Jesus could do such amazing things for other people, then surely He could help poor old blind Bart!

“Jesus!” called Bart. “Jesus ... have mercy on me!” (Mark 10:47)

Do you know what *mercy* is? If you show mercy towards someone, you are kind and you forgive them.

“Jesus, have mercy on me!” Bart shouted so Jesus would hear him, but the crowds of people told Bart to be quiet and to stop making such a racket. Jesus wouldn’t want to talk to a blind beggar sitting by the road. “Just keep quiet, Bart!” they said. Well, what do you think happened? Did Bart keep quiet? No way! This was his chance of meeting Jesus, the miracle man! So he shouted louder through the crowds, “JESUS! HAVE MERCY ON ME!”

And suddenly, Jesus stopped. Jesus told the people, “Call him.” So the crowds started passing the message along to Bart. “Cheer up!” they said. “On your feet! He’s calling you.” (Mark 10:49)

Can you imagine how excited Bart was at that moment? Jesus was calling him! Jesus wanted to see him! Bart threw his cloak down on the ground, he jumped up and pushed his way through the crowds to get to Jesus. He stood there in front of Jesus, in the middle of that big crowd of people. Everyone was quiet, watching what was going to happen. Jesus spoke to Bart.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. (Mark 10:51)

Do you think Bart needed a long time to think about how he would answer that question? Not at all. After all those days and months and years of sitting by the road to Jericho begging people for money, not able to work at a job, not able to see his family, not able to see the world around him, Bart knew exactly what he wanted. He answered Jesus, “I want to see.”

Jesus said, “Go, your faith has healed you.” (Mark 10:52) Immediately, all in an instant, blind Bart wasn’t blind any more! He could see! Jesus, the miracle man, had healed Bart’s eyes because Bart believed in the power of Jesus. He had faith, he believed that Jesus could do it, and He did. Bart and the crowds of people were amazed, again! Bart took a look around him and saw lots of people staring back at him. And there was Jesus. His healer, his Saviour, his friend. That day, Bart left his spot on the road to Jericho, and he joined the crowd of people following Jesus. Bart had a lot to be thankful for.

4. Explain

Boys and girls, isn’t that another amazing story about the mighty power of our friend Jesus? I used to be like blind Bart. I wasn’t actually blind. I’ve always been able to see with my eyes, even though I wear glasses. I’m talking about being blind in a different way. You see, all of us were born with something horrible called sin. You know what that is by now – all those bad thoughts and things we do that aren’t good and pleasing to God. I was born with sin too. And that sin, in a way, was making me blind because I couldn’t get close to God and I had no way of knowing that I would go to heaven with that sin blinding me.

One day, I decided to do something about that. Like Bart didn’t like being blind, I didn’t like living with my sin. So I talked to Jesus. I told

<p>Jesus that I was really sorry for those bad things I had done and the bad things I had thought about and said to people. I asked Jesus to forgive me, to have mercy on me, just like Bart asked him. And then I asked Jesus to come and live in my heart and be my friend so that I could see God and not have to live with that sin any more. And guess what? Just like Jesus healed Bart's eyes, Jesus took my sin away!</p> <p>When Jesus died, He took my sin away and your sin too. All I had to do was ask Him to forgive me and be my friend because He already loved me. And He feels the same way about you! Isn't that wonderful? If you have Jesus in your heart, then you are sure of a place in heaven with Jesus. And before we get to heaven, we can spend time reading these great stories in the Bible and talking to Jesus in our prayer times so that we get to know Him even better.</p> <p>If you haven't already asked Jesus to forgive you and take away your sin, and if you would like to ask Him to live with you in your heart, will you come and talk to me today?</p> <p>Let's pray.</p>	
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<p>C. Prayer Net 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to God and He listens. 2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him. 3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations. 4. Explain that when we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, we need to tell God about those things. 5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations. 6. Encourage kids to believe in the power of Jesus to heal and to save. 7. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net. 8. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>Net (with last week's prayer cards)</i> <i>Small cards / postcards</i> <i>A pen</i></p>
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets) 7 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask kids to put their mats away. 2. Sing a closing song. (I Love You) 3. Challenge kids to be especially thankful to God for their eyesight this week. 4. Remind kids to come back this evening. 5. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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*Have some kids' evangelical literature available for those who may want to know more about accepting Jesus today.

Evangelical literature

THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 15 March 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by playing sight-related games and by making personalised Braille initialled ID cards.

MATERIALS NEEDED:


- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory verse slide (Psalm 77:14)
- ✓ Activity:
 - Tables
 - Scarf or blindfold
 - Book (any book – just to illustrate a concept)
 - Braille sample (e.g. a book or tinned food wrapper)
 - Picture of Braille alphabet (available online by typing 'braille alphabet image' into a search engine and saving the image to your computer. Check www.martinfrost.ws/htmlfiles/jan2009/braille-future.html)
 - Pre-made model of Braille ID card (see below for instructions and photos)
 - Squares of card (about 10-12cm) pre-marked with two sets of six dots (see Activity section below)
 - Pens
 - Self-adhesive jewel/gem stickers **or** small balls of blu-tack
 - Bag containing several oddly shaped items for blindfolded kids to guess by feeling
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 8 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together. (<i>Jesus in My Life / I Love You</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to lift a mat and sit in a circle. 	<p>You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God</i>)</p>
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<p>F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <p><i>"You are the God who does miracles; you have shown people your power." Psalm 77:14 (New Century Version)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a few questions to recap this morning's story of Jesus healing Blind Bartimaeus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was the name of the blind man in our story today? <i>Bartimaeus (we called him Bart)</i> - Where did Bart live? <i>Jericho</i> - What was Bart's job? <i>He didn't have a job. No one would employ him because he was blind. He begged for money.</i> - What did Bart shout out when he heard that Jesus was in the crowd of people? <i>"Jesus, have mercy on me!"</i> - What does it mean to have mercy on someone? <i>To be kind and forgive them.</i> - When Jesus asked Bart what he wanted, what did Bart answer? <i>"I want to see."</i> - What did Jesus say was the reason Bart was healed? <i>Bart's faith healed him. Bart believed that Jesus had the power to make his eyes work, and Jesus helped him.</i> 2. <i>Explain:</i> That's right! Bart's faith and trust in Jesus meant that Jesus healed his eyes. And Bart left that dusty Jericho road and followed Jesus that day. The people were amazed when they saw these miracles. They would never have believed that Jesus had such power if they hadn't seen it with their own eyes! And now we have those stories written down for us in God's Word, the Bible, to teach us and help us to believe, just like Bart did, in the mighty power of Jesus. 3. <i>Explain:</i> Look at what our verse tells us today. <i>Show verse on screen and read aloud.</i> Just think! We can be best friends with Almighty God who does miracles! 4. Repeat the verse a few times as a group and individually. When you think kids have grasped it, move to a blank screen. 5. <i>Explain:</i> We're going to play a game of 'I Spy'. I will start. I'm going to choose something in the room. I'm going to tell you what letter or sound it begins with. If you want to guess, put up your hand and I will ask you. Everyone can keep guessing until someone gets it right. 6. Say: "I spy with my little eye something beginning with ... (e.g. 't'). Kids should raise their hand if they want to guess. If the guess is wrong, keep asking other kids until the item is guessed correctly. When a child guesses the right object you are thinking of, congratulate them and ask them to say the memory verse. That child may then start the game again, saying the rhyme, "I spy with my little eye something beginning with ...". Play a few times, having the winner each time repeat the memory verse. 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Memory verse slide (Psalm 77:14)</i></p>
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7. Finish with a group repetition of the verse.	
Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it in later sessions of this series.	

G. Activity	15 minutes	You'll need ...
1. Set up tables as a workspace and ask kids to find a space around the tables.		Tables
2. Choose one child to help you illustrate the following point. Bring them to the front of the room. Tie a scarf around their head, covering their eyes, to act as a blindfold. Ask the child what they can see. Put a book in their hands. Ask the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is this book about? - What colour is the cover? - Can you turn to page 10? - How much did this book cost? The child will not be able to answer your questions because they are blindfolded. Remove their blindfold. Ask them the questions again. The child should be able to answer your questions with the blindfold removed. The child can go back to their place.		Scarf/blindfold Book
3. <i>Explain:</i> Boys and girls, have you ever thought about how someone who is blind can read a book? People who have very poor eyesight, or who are blind, cannot read books as easily as we do. In fact, they have a special code to help them read. Does anyone know what it's called? <i>Braille</i> . Braille is what we call a way of reading when people who can't see with their eyes touch lots of little dots on a page. The pattern of dots makes up different letters and words so that people who are blind can read. Isn't that amazing? <i>Pass around a Braille book, or even a tinned food can with Braille information printed on the wrapper. Allow kids to feel the dots.</i>		Braille sample (book or tinned food wrapper)
4. <i>Explain:</i> We're going to take a look at the Braille alphabet. Each letter in the Braille alphabet has six dots, but only some of the dots are raised. You can only feel some of the six dots on the paper, and that's how you know which letter it is. Look at the alphabet. <i>Show picture of Braille alphabet on screen (this can be found on the Internet using a search engine if you don't have a large poster copy to show kids).</i> You can see that every letter has six dots, but you can only feel the big dots on the paper.		Picture of Braille alphabet
5. <i>Explain:</i> We're going to make our own Braille identity cards! Here is mine. <i>Show kids your pre-made model.</i> There are two sets of six dots drawn on the cards. You have to look at the alphabet and find your initials – that's the first letters of your first and second names. Find the first letter in the alphabet. Find where you need to put big dots. Then you can stick dots in the right places. Do the same for the second letter. Then you have your own Braille identity card!		Pre-made model of Braille ID card
6. Give each child a square of card (about 10-12cm). These cards should be pre-marked with two sets of six dots as shown:		Squares of card pre-marked with two sets of six dots

<div data-bbox="309 163 488 248">  </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide self-adhesive jewel/gem stickers on the tables. For a cheaper alternative, simply use small pieces of blu-tack rolled into balls. Help kids to find their initials and to stick their dots in the right places. Make sure kids write their names on the backs of their cards. Put tables to the side. <div data-bbox="544 595 743 613"> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> </div> <p>If you have time, play the following <i>What's in the Bag?</i> game. Kids may stand or sit in a circle.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Choose one child to stand in the middle of the circle of kids. Blindfold the child with a scarf. Check the child cannot see anything by asking a few questions, e.g. How many fingers am I holding up? What colour are my eyes? etc. 😊 Pull an item out of a pre-packed bag or sack of items. Place it in the child's hands. Have them guess what the item is by touching it. Repeat this with a few more kids – for as long as time allows, or for as many items as you have in your bag! Put the blindfold into the treasure chest. Tell kids you will take it out again next week and see how much they remember about Blind Bart. 	<p><i>Self-adhesive dots / blu-tack</i></p> <p><i>Pens</i></p> <p><i>Scarf/blindfold</i></p> <p><i>Bag containing several oddly shaped items for kids to guess by feeling</i></p> <p><i>Treasure chest</i></p>
<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets) 7 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (<i>Jesus in My Life</i>) Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes. Close in prayer. Thank God for the gift of good eyesight. Thank God for loving us and forgiving us for our sin which blinds us. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i></p> <p><i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>

