

TWO BLIND MEN CAN SEE

BIG IDEA

Jesus made blind people see and he also opened the 'eyes' of people's hearts.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy small packets of pebbles (or smarties)

Gather up five small objects from your house with different textures. e.g. a peg, soft toy, a sausage, tv remote, plum, icepack. (Make sure that a couple of them feel slimy or are hard to guess!) Put objects in a bag so children don't see them

Get a blindfold for each child (tea towel/scarf)

Find a dressing gown and 2 tea towels, for children to dress up

Write on a card for each person "You are the Christ" and cover the words with a bandaid

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

We're going to talk about two blind men that Jesus healed. When Jesus was on earth, many people believed that if someone was sick or disabled, it was because they had done something really wrong. In today's stories Jesus meets two blind men, one who had never been able to see because he was born blind, and another one called Bartimaeus who was a beggar beside the road.

QUESTIONS

Why do you think people get sick or have accidents?

Today some people still think that if you are a good person everything will go really well for you. But life is more complicated than that, and God has compassion and kindness for us, whoever we are. When the people asked Jesus who was to blame for the man being blind, Jesus said that the man's blindness was no one's fault, but that God would use it to show his glory.



TAKE OUT THE BLINDFOLDS AND PUT ONE ON EACH CHILD. Now pass around the selection of objects from the box, one at a time. Ask the children to hold each one and try to guess what it is.

Finish by handing around some smarties and while they are still wearing the blindfolds, ask them to pick out their favourite colour.

QUESTIONS

Was it hard to guess what we gave you when you couldn't see?

What about the colours of the pebbles?

What do you think it would feel like if you had been born blind?

What would be the hardest thing about not being able to see?

What would you miss seeing the most?

Remember how Jesus is the promised Saviour who came to mend God's broken world. Today we are talking about how Jesus showed God's love and kindness when he healed people.

Remember how big crowds followed Jesus wherever he went and brought everyone who was sick to him. They recognized that the miracles he did were proof that God had sent him. And they were amazed at the things he taught them about God.

The prophets foretold that when God's king came, he would set people free, open the eyes of the blind and make people who were lame jump for joy.

READ

CHOOSE A CHILD TO BE JESUS (dressing gown), and two children to be the blind men (tea towels) who sit by the road. Others are the crowd who call out "Be quiet!" As you read, the children act the story..

☞ When Jesus arrived in Bethsaida some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him and heal him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and spat on his eyes and laid his hands over them. Can you see anything?" Jesus asked him. The man looked around. "Yes he said I see men! But I can't see them very clearly; they look like tree trunks walking around!" Then Jesus placed his hands over the man's eyes again and as the man stared intently his sight was completely restored, and he saw everything clearly, drinking in the sights around him...

Mark 8:22-25

Another blind man called Bartimaeus was sitting by the road and called out to Jesus asking him to heal him. Some of the people yelled at him and told him to be quiet, but Jesus said "Tell him to come here." He asked Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" "O teacher, I want to see," he said. And Jesus said to him, "All right, it's done. Your faith has healed you." And instantly the blind man could see, and followed Jesus down the road! ☞

Adapted from Mark 10:46-52

A QUIZ

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Jesus healed men using pills. *F*
2. We can do miracles if we practise being positive. *F*
3. Healing people proved Jesus was from God. *T*
4. Jesus can help us today with all our problems. *T*
5. When we have faith it pleases God. *T*
6. Jesus healed people to be famous. *F*

EXPLORE

QUESTIONS

What do you think was happening when the first blind man started to see just a little?

Why did Jesus pray again?

When God starts to open our 'inside eyes' we see and understand a bit more about Jesus also.

When Jesus was on earth the people were all wondering and arguing about who he was because Jesus was different to what they expected Messiah would be. But many were beginning to believe in him because of the wonderful things he did.

When Jesus asked Peter his disciple what he thought, Peter answered "You are the Christ."

Jesus told him that God had opened the eyes of his heart – his 'inside eyes' – so that he could understand this truth for himself.

QUESTIONS

How do you think the blind men felt when they had been healed and could see clearly?

Can you think of a way that God has opened the 'inside' eyes of your heart?

Talk about a time when you have felt God speak to you or a time when you have seen God do something amazing, or have felt Him close to you.

Some people, like the first blind man in the story, gradually came to understand who Jesus really was; but others like Bartimaeus jumped up straight away and followed Jesus and became his friends.

HAND AROUND THE CARDS with the bandaid covering up the verse.

When God opens the eyes of our heart we understand who Jesus really is; he speaks to us, and we hear him.

NOW LET THE CHILDREN rip the bandaid off their cards and read the verse 'You are the Christ'.

QUESTIONS

What do you think these words mean?

GAME

Blindfold Treasure Hunt (can do indoors or outside)

We are going on a treasure hunt, but it is a bit different because someone is going to be blindfolded.

CHOOSE THE CHILD WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS NEAREST TO TODAY TO WEAR THE BLINDFOLD. Now show the other children where you are hiding a packet of pebbles.

When you say, "Ready, steady, go!" with a clap, the other children direct the blind-folded child to the treasure using only the words **move left, move right, hot, or cold**.

When they find the treasure bring it back to you. Now everyone have a turn at finding the treasure.

PRAY

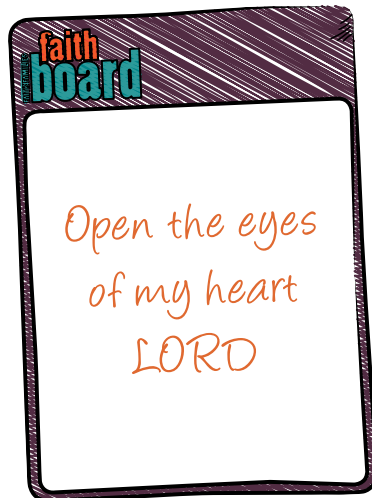
Thank you Jesus for bringing God's love to the world. Open my 'heart' eyes like the blind men and Peter so I can see who you really are.

Please help me to see you with my 'inside' eyes. Amen.

LIVE

This week talk about people you know who have opened their 'heart eyes' to God.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

1 Talk about what it must be like to live as a blind person. Pair up children (the youngest with a parent) and blindfold them.

Get them to gently feel each other's faces. Talk about vulnerability – how did you feel when someone was touching your face? Were you worried your eyes would be poked?

2 Sing the song "Open the eyes of my heart Lord" – lyrics and chords are on internet. You could even play it on YouTube and sing along. And maybe make up family actions to the song, or download the ring tone for Mum or Dad's mobile phone!

