

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

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 might check with your clergy to determine what outreach activities the church or individual members of the church are carrying out that correspond to this Scripture. Does anyone read to a blind person – or make tapes for the blind? Is anyone training a seeing-eye dog? A web site with some information on seeing-eye dogs and their training can be found at www.seeingeye.org

Beginning: Tell the group that today's scripture is the story of the healing of blind Bartimaeus. Suggest they listen, as we read it, for clues as we minister to people in need.

Opening Prayer: Dear God, thank you for our many blessings, especially for those we tend to overlook. Today we notice the gift of sight and the beauty of your world to behold. Amen.

The Scripture: Mark 10:46-52 Suggest that each "part" be read by a different person: You will need the narrator, Bartimaeus, Jesus, and the disciples. (See below for script)

Reflection Questions:

- Why do you think the disciples were so eager to silence Bartimaeus? (They thought Jesus had more important things to do than be distracted by a blind beggar.)
- I wonder in where we find our church – and ourselves – taking the role the disciples chose?
- What did you notice about Jesus' response to Bartimaeus? (He commanded his disciples to bring the man to him, he listened, then he asked the blind man what HE wanted Jesus to do for him.)

- To what extent do we see ourselves following this pattern when we reach out to others. Where might we improve?

Option: Where do we see our parish seeking out opportunities to meet needs? What individual ministries are we aware of? What might we add to our ministries?

Getting Closure: Invite the members of the group to sit, quietly, with eyes closed, and "visit" in their minds some of the beauty of this world God has placed before them. It might be an ocean-side experience, a vista of mountains, your first glimpse of that precious baby. After a few minutes, if you have the time, you could invite each to share one "sight" they noticed.

Closing Prayer: Creator God, thank you for the beauty you set before each of us and for eyes with which to see and wonder. Amen.

Mark 10:46-52

Narrator: They came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say,

Bartimaeus: ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’

Narrator: Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly,

Bartimaeus: ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’

Narrator: Jesus stood still and said,

Jesus: ‘Call him here.’

Narrator: And they called the blind man, saying to him,

Disciples: ‘Take heart; get up, he is calling you.’

Narrator: So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him,

Jesus: ‘What do you want me to do for you?’

Bartimaeus: ‘My teacher, let me see again.’

Jesus: ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’

Narrator: Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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