

**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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**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B – Season after Pentecost, Proper 25**  
**Lesson Plans for Older 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 will need copies of the Bible or of the script below and possibly costumes for those that are acting out the drama.

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. Be prepared, if the children do not know anyone who is blind, to describe either someone you know who is living a full life although blind – getting an education, and holding a good job. Perhaps you are aware of what goes into training a seeing-eye dog or could find out. A web site is: [www.seeingeye.org](http://www.seeingeye.org).

**Beginning:** Ask the children if any of them know someone who is blind. What strategies do blind people use to get around? Has anyone seen a seeing-eye dog? How do they think the white canes some blind people use help them find their way?

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for our eyes that see and for the ways you help people who cannot see. Amen.

**The Story: Mark 10:46-52** Tell the children that this story begs to be acted out, so as we read the story, be thinking about how we could do it. Ask for a volunteer to be the narrator (who has most of the lines), Bartimaeus, Jesus, and the disciples. (see below for script)

**Reflection Questions:**

- Why do you think Bartimaeus was sitting by the road? (The only way he could survive was to beg and the side of the road was a good place to find people who might throw him a few coins.)
- Why do you think Bartimaeus called Jesus "Son of David?" (He must have heard stories that Jesus was the long-expected Messiah.)
- What is interesting about the question Jesus asks Bartimaeus? (He waits for Bartimaeus to name what he wants – Jesus does not assume what the man wants.)
- What does Bartimaeus do when he discovers he can see? (He chooses to follow Jesus.)

**Activity:** Let the children decide how to present by acting it out. (As a play, as a TV news story, possibly even a talk show with a host interviewing Bartimaeus – their choice.)

You be the "audience" for the children's performance.

**Getting Closure:** Do you think Jesus waits for us to tell him what we want him to do? How have you found this to be so – or not so?

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for our sight. Help us to use our eyes to see all the beauty you put before us. 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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**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.

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**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](http://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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