

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.

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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