

**Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**Bartimaeus**

**Introduction**

Today's story is about someone who couldn't see. He was a beggar called Bartimaeus. Let's think about what it's like for someone who can't see.

**Choose one or more of the following activities to help us think about today's story.**

**What's in the sock?**

Make two feely socks! Put 6 or 7 small objects in each bag. Make sure they are the same. Get Mum or Dad to call out one of the objects and race your brother or sister to find that object. You are not allowed to look; you can only feel! If you want, you can set a time limit. Have several goes. Does it get easier?

**Obstacle course**

Set up an obstacle course. One of you is blindfolded and the other has to lead the blindfolded person around the obstacle course, making sure they stay safe and don't hurt themselves. How does it feel when you are blindfolded and you can't see anything?

**Play Squeak Piggy Squeak or Blind Man's Buff**

**Talk about**

- How difficult is it when you are blindfolded and cannot see?
- What do you use instead?
- How do you think blind people find their way around?



**Today's story** comes from Luke 18 v 22-26

When you listen to the story there are lots of things you can do to imagine it more vividly.

- Why not close your eyes when someone reads the version below? Try and imagine how Bartimaeus was feeling.
- Act the story out as it is read. One of you could read it, one of you could be Bartimaeus, one of you could be Jesus. The rest of your family (or your toys) could be the crowd. Think about how everyone is feeling.

### **The Story of Bartimaeus**

It was a scorching hot day. The sun was beating down on the dusty road where the blind beggar was sitting. His name was Bartimaeus. He sat in this same spot every day, against a wall trying to find some shade. Every day he hoped people would walk by and give him some money. He could hear their voices as they passed, he could hear the sounds of their sandals scrunching in the dust. The dust rose from their feet and he could feel it in his mouth and his nose. He felt thirsty but he had nothing to drink.

Today felt different to yesterday somehow. There seemed to be more people passing and there was a sense of anticipation and excitement in the air. After a while he realised there were a lot of people; a large crowd was gathering. He wanted to know what was happening.

“Hey!” he shouted. “What’s going on? Can somebody tell me what is happening?”

“Jesus is coming this way!” someone shouted back. “Can you believe it! Jesus is coming!” shouted another.

Bartimaeus felt excited now. His heart started to beat faster. He wanted to see Jesus as much as everyone else but he knew he couldn't. Suddenly, he heard the crowd starting to shout, he heard people pushing and jostling each other so they could catch a glimpse of Jesus. Bartimaeus wanted to catch a glimpse of Jesus too so he shouted out, “Jesus! Hey Jesus! Take pity on me!”

People in front of him shushed him and told him to be quiet but he shouted even more loudly, “Hey Jesus! Stop! Take pity on me!”



He couldn't believe it when he heard the scrunching sound of walking feet stop and then this quiet, loving voice say, "Someone, bring this man to me." He knew in his heart that this was the voice of Jesus. And then he felt firm hands holding his arms and helping him to his feet; he felt himself being guided to the front of the crowd and then this loving voice spoke to him again, "What do you want me to do?"

"What did he want?" thought Bartimaeus wildly. There was only one thing he wanted.

"Sir, I want to see again. I want to see you clearly."

"Then see!" he heard Jesus say. Oh, what sweet, beautiful words they were. "Your faith has made you well."

There was a rush of colours, the intense glare of bright sunlight, then a face with kind, loving eyes looking straight into his eyes.

"I can see! I can see! I can see you, Jesus!" shouted Bartimaeus. "Oh, thank you Lord."

When the crowd saw what had happened, they were amazed and started praising God.

Bartimaeus looked around at this world he could now see. No more darkness, only bright light; colour and beauty. But where was Jesus now? Bartimaeus ran. He wanted to catch up with him. He knew he had to follow him.

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## **Activities**

**Take your pick from the activities listed here.**

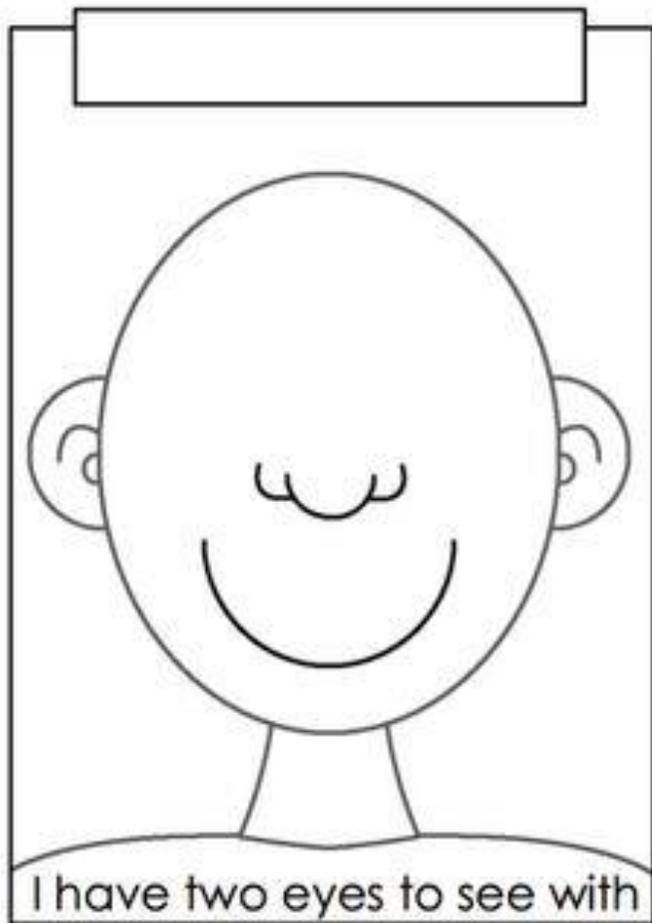


Make this mask.  
You can use it when you  
play Blind Man's Bluff or Squeak  
Piggy Squeak



Enlarge and print

Use this picture and retell or rewrite the story. Or write it as a play script.



You could always do this on a paper plate

**Talk about as you are doing the activities**

- How Jesus helps us to see things more clearly. How He makes us think about what is really important in our lives. What things might they be?

Make a Bartimaeus flip book. You will need to print the pictures from <http://www.jesus-without-language.net/bartimaeus-mark-10-make/>



**Older children from Adventurers and Xplorers** (who enjoyed making snowflakes at Christmas) might like to try making this face changer.



Go online at <http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-face-changer.html>

to find the instructions.

### **Talk about with older children**

- In this present time of the Coronavirus, what can we do to love and help each other; those in our families and in the wider community?
  - Have you noticed how Jesus often asks us first and waits for our response? He asked Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do?" What was Bartimaeus' response both in what he said and then what he did?
  - What would you say to Jesus if he asked you the same question?
- Did Jesus open anything else for Bartimaeus, other than his eyes? Yes, his heart. From that first meeting with Jesus, he felt the power of Jesus' love that changed his life forever and he wanted to follow him. He had total faith in him.

## **Youtube film**

Jesus cured several blind men and helped them to see. Watch this wonderful Youtube clip to find out how he healed another blind man.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KxFkOpgPqY&feature=emb\\_rel\\_end](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KxFkOpgPqY&feature=emb_rel_end)

## **Sing Together!**

Get together as a family and sing the song we have been singing the past few weeks, Jesus Super Hero

### **Jesus Super Hero**

<b>Who fixed the eyes of a man who had always been blind?</b>	<b>(woaaa!)</b>
<b>Went to a wedding and turned all the water into wine?</b>	<b>(shllur)</b>
<b>Who told his friends where to fish so they could fill their nets</b>	<b>(heave)</b>
<b>And then walked on the water and didn't even get his feet wet?</b>	<b>(splash!)</b>

**It's Jesus super hero**

**Jesus super hero**

**Jesus super hero**

**The only one who can save the world.**

<b>Who made a feast out of just a bit of fish and bread?</b>	<b>(mmmm)</b>
<b>Healed a man even though he was already dead</b>	<b>(what?)</b>
<b>Silenced the waves and the wind for all to see</b>	<b>(stop!)</b>
<b>And then died on the cross He came alive so that I could be free</b>	<b>(yeh!)</b>

**It's Jesus super hero**

**Jesus super hero**

**Jesus super hero**

**The only one who can save the world.**

**And when I'm scared I know He's there for me,**

**Just call to Him to come and rescue me.**

**Yeh, when I'm scared I know He's there for me,**

**Just call to Him to come and rescue me.**

**come and rescue me..**

**Yeh! Yeh! Yeh! Yey!**

**He's Jesus super hero.....**

### **Let's have some chat time with God. Let's pray together**

Make yourself comfortable and still. ....

Thank God quietly for the great things he has given us. You might want to thank him for your family, your friends, our beautiful world, for Jesus

Tell God about one thing that has made you sad this week.

Tell God about one thing that has made you really happy.

Then thank God for his love for you and everyone you love.

Amen

Pray, The Lord's Prayer as a family

You might also want to pray a part of the prayer of St Richard. Think about the words really carefully as you pray it :

Thank you, Jesus for all the good things you have given us.

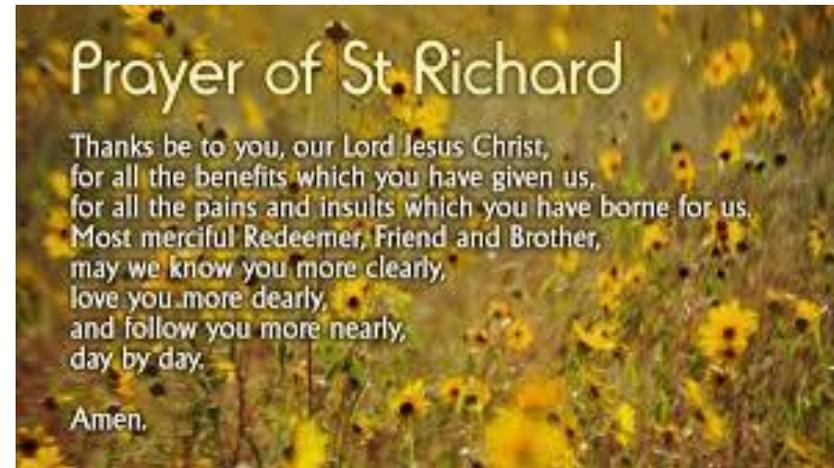
May we know you more clearly,

Love you more dearly

And follow you more dearly,

Day by day.

Amen



If you want to learn a new song, go online and sing along to, "Jesus, you're my super hero"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FY4C930M2Y>

Your parents might like to listen to Day by Day from Godspell [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW\\_RpWbnJXQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW_RpWbnJXQ)

There are other Youtube films about Jesus healing Bartimaeus you might like to look at.

Eg. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsyYuUeAMVw>











