

# Jesus Heals a Blind Man

## Overview



### Materials You'll Need

- large paper plates
- white construction paper
- markers or crayons
- scissors



### Scriptures

Jn 9:1-11, 35-38

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

Jesus showed His love and power by healing a blind man

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To teach the children that we should thank God for the ability to see; to encourage the children to use their eyes to look for ways to help others.

### Memory Verse

"I am the light of the world." (Jn 9:5)



## Bible Knowledge

### The Pool of Siloam

The Pool of Siloam was made by King Hezekiah. His workers built an underground tunnel from a spring outside the city walls that carried water into the city. Thus the people could always get water without fear of being attacked, particularly by the Assyrians at that time. This water source was especially important too in times of siege (see 2 Kgs 20:20; 2 Chron 32:30).

### Jesus' Healing

A common belief in Jewish culture was that sickness and suffering was the result of some great sin. In this case, the man was born blind. That is why Jesus' disciples asked if the man's parents had sinned, which could have resulted in the baby being born with a disease. But Jesus rejected these claims. Instead, Jesus used this man's suffering to teach faith and what it means to glorify God.

It was common at the time to mix clay and saliva to help with eye infections. But according to the rules and regulations created by the Pharisees, there was a long list of specific things a person

could or could not do on the Sabbath because it was a day of rest. Kneading the clay and healing the man were considered work and therefore forbidden. Jesus could have chosen to heal the man with merely a word. Yet, He chose to make the clay with His hands. By doing so, Jesus may have wanted to make His point about the Sabbath, that it is important to care for others' needs, even on a day of rest.

### Excommunication

In John 9:22 it records that the parents of the healed man were afraid they would be "put out of the synagogue." This would be the same as being excommunicated. The Jews had three types of excommunication. The first was when a person was not to come within six feet of anyone else for 30 days. The second lasted an indefinite time and the person was not allowed to worship or fellowship with anyone. The last and most severe was when a person was expelled forever. Any of these would have been considered serious since no one would want anything to do with a person who was excommunicated. This man, however, had less to lose since he had been an outcast his entire life before he met Jesus. Now he had a chance at a new life.



## Understanding Your Students

Young children are usually fascinated with fantastic stories. They especially like to listen to stories about Jesus' great power. In today's lesson, Jesus healed a man who had been born blind. Although it is certainly a great miracle, the students may not really understand the significance of such a healing.

In order to help them see the story from the man's perspective, the teacher could try blindfolding the students before the lesson so that they may experience, even if it is only for a few minutes, what the man felt like. When done in an organized fashion, one or two of the students could also try walking around the room blindfolded. They will get a taste of what it is like to be blind. After they take off the blindfolds, talk about how scary it is when someone who cannot see

walks around, not knowing where things are. They could trip or fall, and even get hurt. Also take some time to discuss all the things a person would not be able to do for himself if he were blind. Today, there are assistance dogs, government provided transportation, and Braille to help those who are unable to see. But back in the time of Jesus, there were no such things. A person who was blind was very limited in the kinds of things he could do. How would that have made the blind man feel? It is critical to tap into the empathy of the students. The more they are able to develop a sense of awareness of others, the less self-centered they will become. If they saw the blind man, what kinds of things could they do to help him out? What about today? What kinds of situations do we come across where we are able to offer help? Through this kind of discussion, we can help them become good helpers.



## Vocabulary

### **Blind**

to be unable to see

### **Punishment**

a consequence (usually something not enjoyable) for breaking the law or rules

### **Miracle**

something amazing and great that only God can do



## Before You Teach

The blind man experienced a new and transformed life through Jesus. Before meeting Jesus, he spent much of his life as a beggar. He had no hope. But when Jesus told him to wash in the pool of Siloam, he was able to see for the first time in his life. He no longer had to beg for money or food. He could enjoy the outdoors. He could have a real future. Even more important was that this man gained not only physical sight but also spiritual sight, as he recognized Jesus as Master and the Lord.

Many of us try to take good care of our bodies. We exercise and eat healthy food because we want our bodies to be in shape. But how many of us invest the same amount of time and energy into our spiritual well-being? Of course, it is good to be

healthy, but we know that one day, our physical being will perish. What is important for eternal life is our spirit.

Peter tells us to grow in spiritual strength and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet 3:18). When we spend time reading the Bible, praying to God, and meditating on His teachings, our spiritual eyesight will also be opened like the blind man in the story. We will recognize our Lord as our Savior and that nothing else is more important. Then we will naturally prioritize our life in such a way that God's teachings and commands come first. Our values will be based on the standards of the Bible and not of the world. The blind man's life was certainly changed forever when he was able to see. But that would only be his life on earth. Because his spiritual eyesight was opened, he received the gift of eternal life, and that is more precious than anything the world can offer.



## Bible Story

### **Jesus Is Loving and Forgiving**

In the last lesson, we learned about a story that Jesus told. There was a father and his two sons. One day, the younger son asked his father for the money he had saved for him. He wanted the money because he wanted to travel far away and spend it on the things he wanted to. The father didn't want his son to leave, but he loved his son so much he gave the son the money. The younger son packed up his belongings and left his father's house. After he got to the far away land, he began to use his money carelessly. He bought a lot of things and ate a lot of good food. But soon, his money ran out and he was hungry. He knew he had to get a job. So he went to work. His job was to feed the pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat what the pigs were eating. Then he knew he had to go home and say sorry to his father for all the things he had done. When he got home, he told his father how sorry he was. He would have been happy if his father had let him be a servant in the house. But his father was just glad his son had come home. He forgave his son and told the servants to give the son a robe, a ring and a good pair of sandals. He even welcomed his son home with a big feast. Jesus told this story because He wanted people to know that He is like the father in the story. When someone comes to Jesus and says that he is sorry, Jesus will forgive him for the wrong things he has done. Jesus will be like the father in the story and not be angry anymore. Jesus is a loving and forgiving Father, isn't He? Jesus is also full of power. In today's story, we are going to learn about a great thing He did for a blind man.

### **A Blind Man Begs For Food and Money**

Has anybody met a blind person before? A blind person is someone who cannot see. Can you imagine what it would be like to not see? It would probably be hard to do things for yourself. If you could not see, what would you miss seeing? (Teacher may choose to blindfold some of the students or turn out the lights if the kids are willing and let them experience total darkness. Talk about what it is like to be blind and help them understand what it is like not being able to see. Let them express their opinions.) Our Bible story is about a man who couldn't see. Actually, he was

born blind. Because he was blind, he couldn't work or do many things for himself. So most of the time, he sat on the roadside, asking people who passed by for money or food.

One day, Jesus was walking with His disciples. It happened that Jesus saw this blind man who was sitting on the roadside. Just like before, the man was asking people to give him some food or just a little bit of money.

### **Jesus Puts Mud on the Blind Man's Eyes**

During this time, people thought that bad things happened only to people who had done wrong things. They thought that being blind was a punishment for having done something wrong before. So when the disciples saw this blind man, they wondered to themselves, "What made this man blind?"

So they asked Jesus, "What did this man do wrong? Or was it his parents who did something wrong to make him blind when he was born?"

Jesus answered them, "The man and his family did nothing wrong to make him blind. This man is blind so God can show His great power and love."

Then Jesus walked over to the blind man and did something very interesting. Can you guess what Jesus did? (Give students time to respond.) He did something His friends and His disciples had never seen before. He got close to the ground and spat on the dusty ground. He used his saliva to mix the dust until it became muddy. Then Jesus put some of this mud onto the blind man's eyes. The people watching probably thought this was very strange.

### **Jesus Heals the Blind Man's Eyes**

After Jesus had put the mud on the blind man's eyes, He told him to go to a special pool to wash the mud off his eyes. This pool was called "The Pool of Siloam." These were certainly strange things that Jesus did. Do you think the blind man listened to Jesus? (Let the children raise their hands if they think yes). That's right, the blind man did just what Jesus told him to do! He got up and slowly felt his way to the pool with his hands and his feet. When he got to the pool, he took some of the cool water in his hands and washed the mud off his eyes. What do you think happened when his eyes

were clean? Yes! He could see! What do you think he was able to see? (Maybe his own hands, the water, the sky, the sun, the people around him.) He must have been so excited. If you could see after being blind, what might you do? (Allow students to share. Some ideas: you might jump up and down, or shout, "I can see!")

The blind man probably wanted to run home and tell his family what Jesus had done for him. As he headed back, many people recognized him.

Some of them said, "Isn't this the blind man who was asking for food and money by the road? How come he can see now?"

Other people said, "Maybe it's just someone who looks like him."

But the man heard what they were saying. So he said to them, "It is me! I am the man who was blind!"

So the people asked him, "How come you can see now?"

The man explained, "A man named Jesus put

some mud on my eyes and told me to wash in the pool. After I did that, I was able to see."

The people who heard the man were very surprised! What a great miracle!

### **Jesus Is Powerful and Full of Love**

Jesus did many miracles in the Bible. Miracles are things that can only be done with God's help. Jesus healed the man by letting him see, even though he was born blind. That is a miracle. In the story, Jesus healed the blind man to show God's great power and love. Before the man met Jesus, he could not see and no one could help him to see. But Jesus loved the blind man and helped him to see. Jesus loves us today and He can help us. Today God can also heal people who are sick. He can help people get well. Jesus does this to show people how powerful God is and how much God loves everyone. Let's praise and thank God that He loves us very much.



### Check For Understanding

- 1. When someone is blind, what is the one thing he cannot do?** (He cannot see.)
- 2. How long had the man in this story been blind?** (His whole life. He was born blind.)
- 3. Why did the disciples ask Jesus if the man or his parents had done something wrong?** (They thought the man or his family had done something wrong and that was why the man was born blind. They thought it was a kind of punishment.)
- 4. What did Jesus say was the reason he was blind?** (It was to show God's great power and love.)
- 5. What did Jesus do with His saliva?** (He spat on the ground and made mud with the dirt. Then He rubbed it on the man's eyes.)
- 6. What did Jesus tell the blind man to do?**

(Jesus told him to wash his eyes in the pool.)

- 7. What did the man tell other people after Jesus made him see?** (He told other people that Jesus healed him of his blindness.)
- 8. Jesus shows love for us, too. One way He shows His love is to answer our prayers when we ask for help. We can ask for Jesus' help in everything. What are some things we might need help with?** (We need help to get well when we're sick, to not feel afraid of the dark, to tell the truth, to get along with others, to obey our parents.)
- 9. God gave us eyes so that we can use it for good purposes. What are some of the things we can use our eyes for?** (We can use it to study and do well in school, we can help others when we see that they need help, we can read the words of God.)



## Life Application Story

### The Car Ride Home

The Marsh family was on their way home from shopping at the supermarket. They had also just bought two large pizzas for dinner. Michelle and John couldn't wait to get home so they could eat them. Smelling the pizzas in the car was making them hungry! So Michelle and John sat in the back-seat trying to think of games to play.

Michelle said, "John! I've got a game we can play. Let's list as many things as we can that are blue. I'll start. Your shoes are blue!"

"Okay," John said excitedly. "That car is blue, and so is your shirt."

"That road sign is also blue," said Michelle.

The two children looked outside the car window to try to spot more things that were blue.

Then all of a sudden, Michelle shouted, "Mom, Dad, look at that kitten on the road."

Mr. Marsh pulled the car over to the side of the road.

"Where is the kitten?" asked Mrs. Marsh.

"Over there," said Michelle as she pointed to some bushes by the sidewalk.

"Oh, I see it," said John.

"He looks like he is hurt," said Mr. Marsh as he opened his door. He got out of the car and walked over to where the kitten was. He took a look and then walked back to the car.

"Well, what happened, Dad?" asked Michelle.

"It looks like the kitten has a broken leg."

"We can't just leave it here. We have to do something," Michelle said.

"Maybe the kitten belongs to one of the neighbors here on this block," suggested Mrs. Marsh.

"We could knock on the doors and see if the kitten belongs to anyone," said Michelle.

"Well, I suppose we could try," said Mr. Marsh as the whole family got out of the car.

Mr. Marsh and Michelle went to one house and Mrs. Marsh and John started at a different house. After knocking on a few doors, the family found out that the kitten belonged to a lady at the end of the street. So they carefully picked up the kitten and walked over to the house. John saw a doorbell and rang it. After a few seconds, a woman

opened the door.

"Does this kitten belong to you?" asked Michelle right away.

"Yes, he does. Where did you find him?"

"Michelle spotted him as we were driving by. He was hiding under some bushes at other end of the street," explained Mr. Marsh.

"Well, you certainly have good eyes, young lady. I looked for him all afternoon after he ran out the back door and I couldn't find him anywhere."

"It looks like he is a little bit hurt," said Mr. Marsh as he handed the kitten back to the lady.

"I will take him to the vet right away. Thanks again for finding my kitten," said the lady as she shut the door.

As the Marsh family walked back to the car, John said, "Well, I guess it was lucky we played the game."

"Yes, Michelle, you had good eyes to spot the kitten and because you saw him, we were able to help him," said Mrs. Marsh.

Mr. Marsh took his keys to open the car door and the whole family got into the car and buckled up.

"God gave us our eyes so that we could use them to do good things, like read, study hard, and help others when we see a problem," said Mr. Marsh as they drove off. "You did a good job today, Michelle."

Michelle smiled. She was glad she did something that made God happy. She was happy that the kitten was safe too.

As she was thinking about what just happened, John said out loud, "I am so hungry now. I can't wait to get home so I can eat three slices of pizza!"

The whole family laughed and agreed that they were hungry too. But they were happy they had done something good.

### Questions to Think About

1. **What can we do with our eyes that please God?** (Allow students to answer. We can read books and study hard at school, we can read the Bible and learn God's words, when we see a problem we can try to help or get help.)
2. **How can we keep our eyes healthy?** (Eat healthy food, not watch too much television, use sunglasses to protect them from the sun.)
3. **What can we do when we see someone who needs help?** (Allow students to answer.)



## Activity 1

### Jesus Helps the Blind Man See

Look at the picture. Can you find the things that were a part of the story? Look for: a blind man, mud, a pool of water, and Jesus and His disciples.



## Activity 2

### How Can We Use Our Eyes To Help?

Look at each set of pictures. How are the people using their eyes to help? Trace the bold words with a pencil or marker.

1. When we see someone hurt, we can get a grown-up to help.
2. When we see someone carrying a lot of things, we can open the door for her.
3. When we see garbage lying around, we can throw it out in the trash.



## Activity 3

### Eyes That Can See

#### Materials:

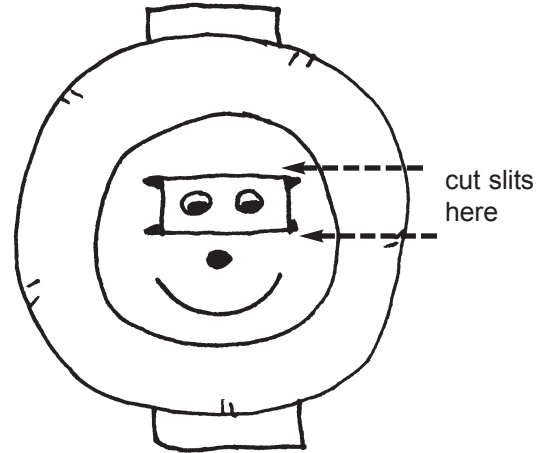
1. large paper plates (teacher will need to pre-cut slits; see diagram)
2. markers or crayons
3. white construction paper
4. scissors

#### Directions:

1. Give each student a paper plate with pre-cut slits (two slits about one and a half inches apart).
2. Help students slide their strip of white construction paper through the slits.
3. Have them draw a pair of eyes on the construction paper to show the blind man being able to see.
4. Now direct the students to pull their paper down (or up) slightly so that the eyes are no longer visible. On the blank space, help them draw eyes that are closed to represent the blind man.
5. Show the students how to slide the construction

paper up and down to show how the blind man became a man who was able to see.

6. The students can use markers or crayons to draw a mouth, and nose on the paper plate to complete the face.
7. As the students are creating this craft, review the story of how Jesus helped the blind man see. How must the blind man have felt? How come Jesus was able to help the man see?



Activity 9:1

### Jesus Helps the Blind Man See

Look at the picture below. Can you find the things that were a part of the story?

Look for: **a blind man, mud, a pool of water, and Jesus and His disciples.**

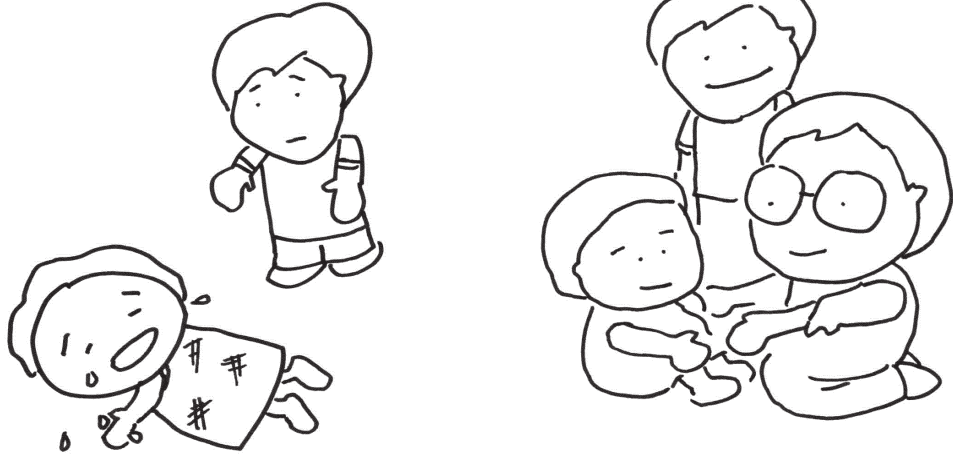


Activity 9.2

### How Can We Use Our Eyes To Help?

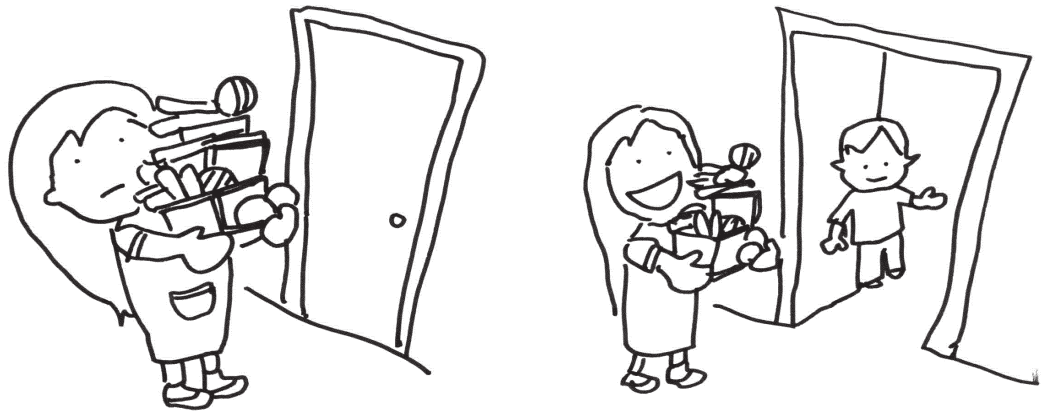
Look at each set of pictures. How are the people using their eyes to help?  
Trace the bold words with a pencil or marker.

1.



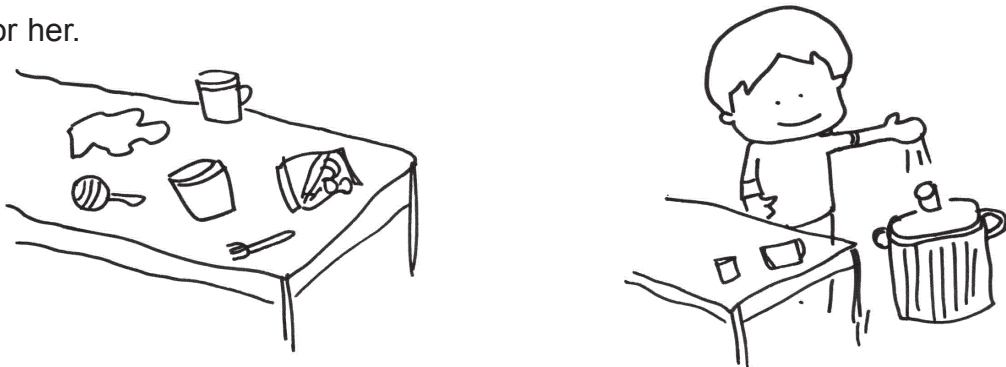
When we see someone hurt, we can get a grown-up to **help**.

2.



When we see someone carrying a lot of things, we can **open** the door for her.

3.



When we see garbage lying around, we can **throw** out the trash.