

Children's Message: Look with your Heart! Jesus Heals a Blind Man

Main Objective: This story reminds us that there is more than one way of being "blind." That symbolism can be a challenging concept for young children to understand, since they tend to interpret and grasp things in a more literal way. This message aims to express how marvelous, miraculous, and loving Jesus is. It also reminds kids that we need to be open to what God does in our lives, as well as what He wants us to do for others.

Law/Gospel Theme: In this specific story, Jesus is explicitly overcoming the Law. The letter of the law stated that no work could be done on the Sabbath, and by healing the blind man, He was technically "working." The church leaders were, of course, suspicious and worried about Jesus. Their eyes were closed to what amazing things He was doing. We have the blessed assurance of understanding that He has already overcome every obstacle, and because of His death and resurrection, we will ultimately be healed and renewed. If we open our eyes to recognize this, we find hope in Him, and joy in serving others around us.

Optional Materials: Pieces of paper or paper towel tubes (one per student)

Greet the children, and hand each student a piece of paper or paper towel tube.

Hello, children of God! How are you? How would you like to see a neat little trick with your eyes? You know, your eyes can do some pretty amazing things. But I am going to show you how your eyes can put a hole in your hand. Do you believe I can do that? I'll also show you how to make your hand disappear completely! Check this out...take that paper I gave you (or tube; if not already rolled, have students roll up the paper pieces), and hold it over one eye. Keep both of your eyes open, but hold the paper up to it. Now, hold out your hand (demonstrate as you invite students to do this: hold out the hand that is not holding the tube, palm facing toward you, near the end of the tube/paper). Bring your hand close to the side of the tube (slowly do the same to show students what is happening. It should appear as though there is a "hole" in the hand, due to the perception of the eyes). Do you see the "hole" in your hand? Now, keep that hand held out next to the tube. Close the eye that is not covered by the tube/paper. Did your hand disappear? Open your eye. It reappeared again! This is wild and impossible? How is it happening? (Students can put their papers or tubes down as you go on to explain.) Well, your eyes are really quite marvelous and miraculous things. You have two eyes, and it takes both of them to make a proper picture. Your brain interprets what the eyes are seeing, and you can process all sorts of things through that. In fact, your eyes can see over ten million different variations of color, and can focus on fifty objects in a second! There are muscles behind your eyes, and they are extremely fast, but never need rest. The eye is so complex, it's just amazing! But some people have eyes that don't see perfectly, and they might wear glasses or contact lenses. Some people aren't able to see at all. Can you imagine if all you could see was...nothing? (Hold up a paper or hand over one or two of the children's eyes to consider blindness.) That would be challenging. You couldn't watch cartoons, or find your favorite color of shirt, or play a video game...it would be hard not to see! In today's Gospel story, Jesus met a man who couldn't see. This man was born blind. He had never been able to see, not once in his whole life. Jesus decided to heal the man. He took some dirt, and he mixed it with his own spit, to make mud! Umm, eww? Then he spread that mud on the blind man's eyes! Jesus told him to go wash up in a pool, and when the man did, he could

see again! It was a miracle! Some people weren't too happy about this, though. Some people didn't believe it was the same man as the one who had been born blind. Some people were angry because Jesus did "work" on the Holy Sabbath day, since He made mud and healed someone. The neighbors and church leaders were questioning the healed man, and his parents. They were so suspicious and upset that they missed out on appreciating this great miracle. They closed their eyes, in a way. Did you know we have eyes in our hearts? Not actual eyeballs, of course...but we can think about seeing with our hearts when we consider our attitudes towards God and one another. If your thoughts and your actions are focused on yourself, it's hard to have a "vision" or see outside your own little problems and needs. You might be able to look at things with your eyes, but you'll be "blinded" to what God is doing, or to the things other people need and are doing. It's like closing your eyes, or wearing goggles that don't let you look around. God wants us to recognize that HE is the light. He should be our vision and desire. Jesus is the light of the world, and our heart eyes should seek Him. Jesus sometimes said that people did not see things clearly, even if they could see with their physical eyes. That's how some people missed out on HIM and the amazing things He did! So let's keep our eyes open, spiritually and physically. We can look around to know what others need. We can keep our minds on God, and what He wants to do in our lives. Why don't we pray and ask for help in doing this well?

Children's Prayer Moment

(Have kids repeat each line) Dear God, Thank you for your miraculous work You do amazing things in the world and in our lives Thank you for the TRUE stories of the Bible Help me to open my eyes So that I can love and serve those around me Thank you for your love We love you, God! In Jesus name, Amen!



Jesus Heals a Blind Man

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 9:1-34 (NIV).



S	R	E	X	T	B	S	D	W	O	R	L	D	W	T
R	B	P	N	H	D	E	I	A	M	B	I	R	T	H
I	P	R	C	E	V	R	W	G	V	X	V	S	O	L
L	O	P	N	I	T	D	B	R	H	V	L	R	D	Q
B	K	N	E	H	U	P	O	O	L	T	I	G	E	U
E	I	C	G	B	A	K	M	V	X	P	G	M	L	Z
S	E	I	S	L	F	A	E	P	K	A	H	W	H	E
R	N	I	G	I	Q	I	O	W	A	R	T	Y	M	V
F	C	Q	D	N	D	H	Z	S	X	E	O	O	L	P
X	O	U	H	D	D	G	T	I	A	N	H	T	T	K
L	M	P	Z	E	Q	K	R	L	E	T	C	R	G	C
P	I	W	E	W	A	S	H	O	Z	S	S	P	I	T
C	C	F	E	N	W	K	J	A	U	Q	R	O	R	Y
P	Q	D	E	U	E	K	E	M	Q	N	B	S	H	O
T	N	E	Y	E	S	D	S	E	L	A	D	M	Z	Z

BLIND	EYES	SPIT	POOL	WASH
WORLD	SINNED	SIGHT	NIGHT	BORN
HOME	MUD	LIFE	OPENED	LIGHT
SILLOAM	PARENTS	RECEIVED	BIRTH	GROUND

