



**Friday 10th
September**

**Jesus and the blind
man**

Introduction

Jesus made his disciples and others in the crowds he talked to look at things differently. He also healed people and today's story brings together both of these aspects, to think about how Jesus makes people look at things differently.

The bible passage is from Mark 10:46–52 (CEB)

Jesus and his followers came into Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho, together with his disciples and a sizable crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, Timaeus' son, was sitting beside the road. When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, 'Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!' Many scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, 'Son of David, show me mercy!'

Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him forward.'

They called the blind man, 'Be encouraged! Get up! He's calling you.'

Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

Jesus asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?'

The blind man said, 'Teacher, I want to see.'

Jesus said, 'Go, your faith has healed you.' At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

The story of Bartimaeus on the surface appears to be a story of physical blindness and healing, but a deeper look reveals it to be a story of seeing things differently and new beginnings.

- Bartimaeus is an alternative disciple. He teaches the twelve disciples about faith. He asked more than once for what he needed and was not deterred by the people shushing him.
- Jesus had compassion and mercy for the blind man who was considered 'less than' by others. He treated Bartimaeus, whom other people despised, with respect.

- Jesus teaches us to see the world with new eyes – to see and feel the world differently.
- Have you had encounters on your spiritual journey that have helped you see or feel differently about something?

Activities:

1. Make the blind man see

You need: paper plate with eye-holes, card circle, paper fastener, pens, short lengths of wool, glue.

Having made two eye-holes in a paper plate, use a split-pin paper fastener to fix a small card circle (diameter of the bottom of the plate) behind the paper plate.

Draw 2 eyes on the back card in the spaces made by the eye-holes on the plate.

Draw the rest of a face on the paper plate, adding hair made of wool if you wish.

Turn the back circle so

that the eyes disappear and the man is blind. Turn it round until he can see again.



Talk about: How Jesus saw the blind man differently to others, who wanted him to remain quiet. Jesus didn't assume what the blind man needed, but he asked him what he wanted. He treated the blind man with respect and compassion.

2. Draw without looking



You need: blindfold (a facemask works well), plain paper, pencil.

Put on a blindfold and then draw a simple house shape on A4 when you can't see anything. If you can do this, try drawing a garden for your house, or even a person!

Talk about: how people without vision rely on their other senses to help them.

3. Glasses in a case

You will need: 2 pipe cleaners; A4 piece of paper; glue stick;

Use one pipe cleaner to make two joined up circles that go around your eyes –



remember to make the join form a big enough space for your nose. Cut another pipe cleaner in half and attach to each side of the eye-pieces to make the arms. Curve the ends to fit over the ears.

To make a case for your glasses: Fold an A4 sheet of paper in three, leaving a 2cm edge. Fold over the edge and stick it down.

Fold up the bottom edge and stick it down. Decorate your glasses case with flowers, squiggles, shapes and/or pieces of coloured paper.

Talk about: how glasses help some people to see things much more clearly.

We also say that we can see more clearly when something is explained to us or if we use a different way to understand something and it make much more sense.

4. Obstacle course

You will need: anything that makes a good obstacle course (hula hoops, caution cones, chairs, etc); blindfolds.

Place the obstacle items in any order to create a path for people to walk through. Work with a partner. One person will be blindfolded, and the other person will guide them through the obstacle. Once through, the partners can switch roles.

Talk about how hard it is to get around obstacles in life if you can't see.

Bartimaeus had to have help getting to Jesus. He trusted that Jesus was God's Son and would help him. God is always with us and we can trust God to help us, too.

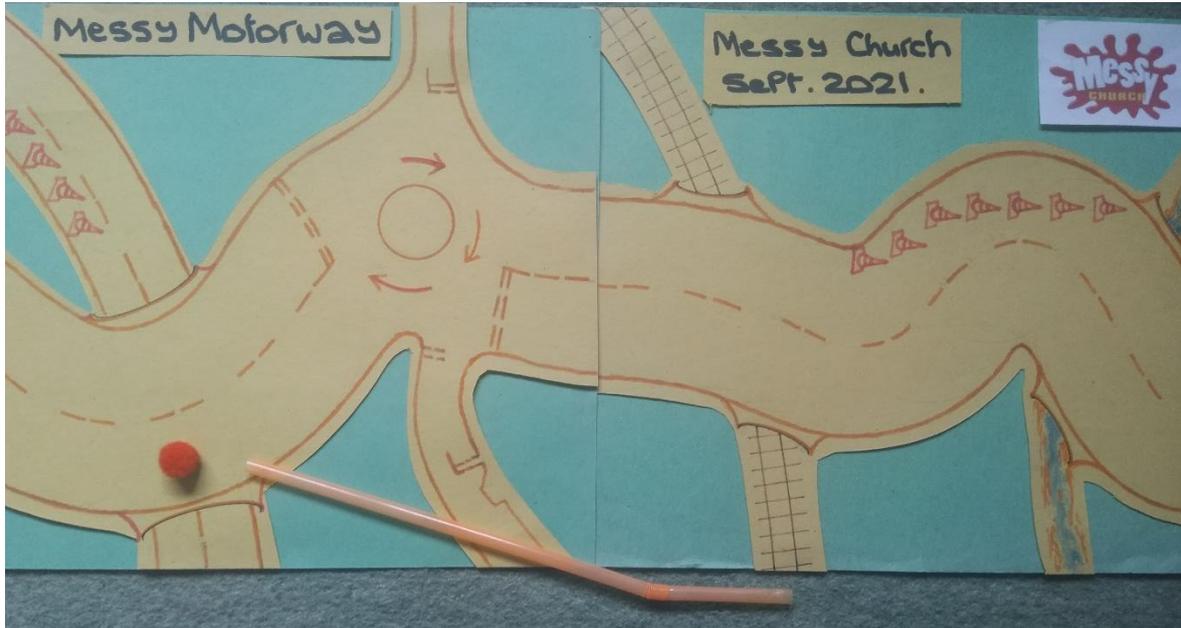
5. Blowing a zig zag track



You will need: a zig zag track marked out on a table, the floor or paper; straws; pom-poms.

Either draw a wiggly track on paper, or mark it out with masking tape on the floor or a table. Give each person a straw and a pom-pom. Place your pom-pom on top of the tape or the track if you have drawn

one. Blow it from the start of the tape or track to the end of it without blowing it off the tape or track.



Talk about how Bartimaeus was surrounded by people ‘shushing’ him, but he continued to call out for Jesus. God wants us to be persistent in our praying and seeking. What makes it hard to be persistent? What keeps us from asking for what we need?

6. What do you see?

You will need: Optical illusion pictures (see the end of this document, or from the internet)

Show someone else one of the optical illusion pictures to see if they can see different things to what you can see. Does turning the picture around to look at it differently help you to see a different picture?

Talk about how you feel when you can see the other picture that you couldn't see to start with. How do you think Bartimaeus felt about getting a fresh start – seeing things in a new and different way as he followed Jesus?

Songs:

1. Hallelu, hallelu

A wonderful song of celebration that we've sung before in Messy Church goes like this:

Group 1/sit: Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, halleluia

Group 2/stand: Praise ye the Lord

Group 1/sit: Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, halleluia

Group 2/stand: Praise ye the Lord

Group 2/stand: Praise ye the Lord

Group 1/sit: Halleluia

Group 2/stand: Praise ye the Lord

Group 1/sit: Halleluia

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Group 1/sit: Halleluia

Group 2/stand: Praise ye the Lord

If you have a few people in your family, see if you can share the singing.

Alternatively stand up and sit down to sing different parts.

Here's a link to a version that you can sing along to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f50UKvfhku4>

2. He gave me eyes

This song starts with thinking about how God has made each of us with eyes to see and goes on to think about some of the other things that we have which help us in life.

He gave me eyes so I could see
The wonders of the world
Without my eyes I could not see
The other boys and girls.
He gave me ears so I could hear
The wind and rain and sea,
I've got to tell it to the world
He made me.

He gave me lips so I could speak
And say what's in my mind,
Without my lips I could not speak
A single word or line,
He made my mind so I could think
And choose what I should be,
I've got to tell it to the world
He made me.

He gave me hands so I could touch
And hold a thousand things
I need my hands to help me write
To help me fetch and bring.
These feet he made so I could run
He meant me to be free
I've got to tell it to the world
He made me.

I haven't been able to find a version that includes words, but here's one that gives you the tune:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeHPmp1Sek4>

Prayer

In some parts of the world, Christians pray out loud all at the same time. This reminds us that, when we pray, we are not talking to impress each other, but to connect with God. The blind man had to shout out above the noise of the crowd to get himself noticed. At home you could try this type of prayer as a family, all shouting for what you want. It could be something like:

Good weather

Peace in the world

A yummy snack

An ill relative to get better

Help me see things differently

On the count of three, everyone should pray their prayer out loud at the same time.

Messy Grace:

This is a prayer that we say at Messy Church to ask God to always be with us, as we try to keep connected to Jesus.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands)

Be with us all (raise arms)

Amen (drop hands)

Next date: Friday 8th October 2021

The main session will be in-person on this date, starting from 3.45pm at St Mary's Church, The Avenue, West Wickham. BR4 0DX. There will be a livestream once the celebration starts on our Facebook page, probably around 4.45pm.

www.facebook.com/MessyChurchWestWickham/



Do you see a frog or a horse?



Do you see a duck or a rabbit?



Do you see a dog with a bone or a man?

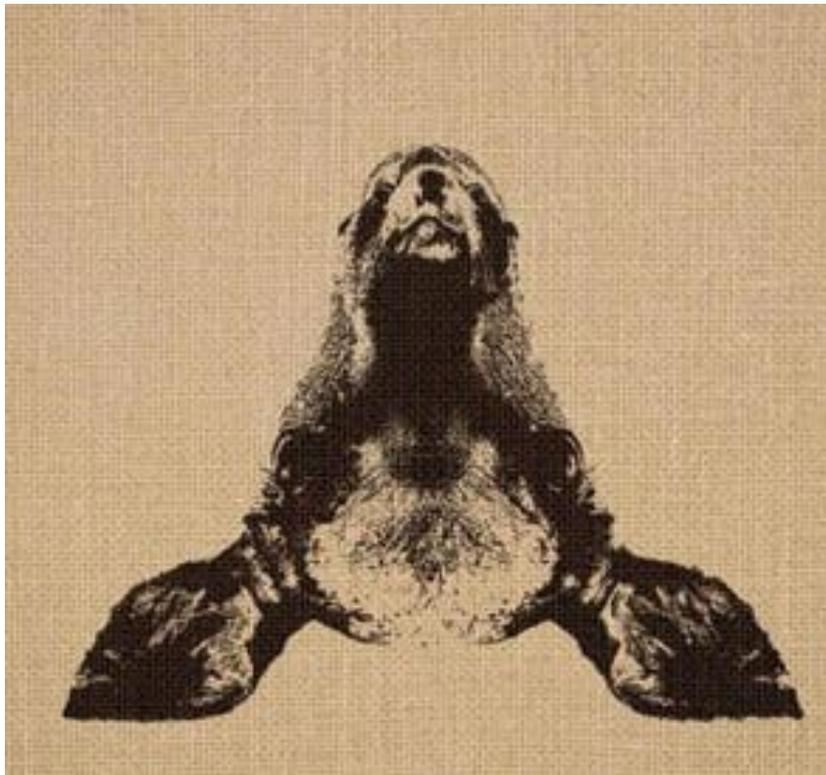


<http://www.puzzlersworld.com>

Do you see an American indian or an eskimo?



Do you see a young woman or an older woman?



Do you see a seal or a deer?