

Blind Bartimaeus in church session

Activity	Equipment	Instructions	Discussion	Picture
<p>1. Turning over a new leaf</p>	<p>Coloured paper White card Pens glue</p>	<p>Draw a tree trunk and branches onto your white card. Cut our leaf shapes from your coloured paper/card. Write something on a leaf that you would like to do differently (e.g. let my light shine, clear clutter, get fit, waste less, drink more water, give more smiles, recycle, trust God). Stick your leaf on the tree, ask God to help you achieve it.</p>	<p>Talk about how, just as God gave Noah a new start, we can start afresh too. God will not store up the things we have done wrong. He forgives us, which wipes the slate clean, so we can start again.</p>	
<p>2. Animal masks</p>	<p>thin card or paper plates; a hole punch; elastic or ribbon; scissors; pens Template</p>	<p>Using the templates below (or your own ideas) make and decorate an animal mask using the card or paper plate. Punch holes in the sides. Thread through elastic or ribbon to secure round your head.</p>	<p>Talk about if you could be an animal, what would you choose and why?</p>	

<p>3. Animal pancakes</p>	<p>Pre cooked pancakes Cookie cutters or knife Butter/Jam/ Chocolate spread</p>	<p>Cut out animal shapes or design your own. Decorate with topping of your choice</p>	<p>Talk about if you were God and could design your own animal, what would it look like?</p>	
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Bible Stories

Genesis 6:5–8 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the Lord said, ‘I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created – and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground – for I regret that I have made them.’ But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord.

Mark 10:46–52 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.

Activity	Equipment	Instructions	Discussion	Picture
4. Keep shouting!	coloured paper; pencils; a plate for tracing; scissors; felt-tip pens or crayons; sticky tape	Trace the circle on to the paper. Decorate it with felt-tip pens, crayons etc. Cut out the circle. Roll the paper into a cone and secure with a couple pieces of tape.	Talk about how, when Jesus was leaving the town of Jericho, Bartimaeus began to shout to Jesus. Bartimaeus was overlooked by those in his town and had to be persistent to be noticed. Who is overlooked in your community and has to shout loudly so they can be seen and heard?	
5. Snack challenge	crackers; cheese slices cut into quarters; sliced cucumbers; hummus; blindfolds; plates; knives	Construct a snack sandwich while blindfolded to raise awareness and build empathy for those who are without vision.	Talk about how every day we complete tasks without even thinking about it. Bartimaeus relied on help from others to get to Jesus. Do you think Bartimaeus could have easily made a snack? Jesus showed Bartimaeus compassion and respect. How can we help those who are unable to see? How can they help us?	
6. Bartimaeus in a bag	two lolly sticks per person; felt-tip pens; brown/black paper; small pieces of cloth; paper to make a small bag	Decorate one lolly stick to be Jesus and the other to be blind Bartimaeus. Flip Bartimaeus over and make him healed. Cut a road out of brown/black paper. Cut a small piece of material for the cloak. Use the paper to make a bag and then take the story home with you in the bag.	Talk about the story and how Bartimaeus had faith that Jesus could heal him. Using your story pieces, who could you tell this story to?	







