

“BECOMING A DISCIPLE”

90 MINUTES



AIM

To encourage the group to think about what Bartimaeus wanted from Jesus and to consider what they are wanting from Jesus and how they can ask for it.

OVERVIEW

This session uses a variety of techniques to involve your group in the story of Bartimaeus. Your group should become more familiar with the challenge of the story, and will have an opportunity to respond to Jesus' question to Bartimaeus which echoes for us today.

SESSION EQUIPMENT MASTER LIST

Equipment	Quantity	Specific source?
A roll of cheap white lining paper (or stick several sheets of flipchart paper together)	1	Can be purchased cheaply from any DIY store
Felt tips of various thicknesses and colours	Several sets	
Paints - if you are willing to risk being messy. Make sure they are permanent! (Soap and a towel for afterwards)	Variety	Craft or Stationery store
Blu tack to stick lining paper to wall	1 pack	
A DVD player and TV or video projector and the DVD		
Print out copies of the story of Bartimaeus using a version of the Bible you usually use on one side and another more modern version such as The Message or The Street Bible on the other	Enough for everyone	If you don't have a modern version of the Bible then use www.biblegateway.com and print from there
For Prayer Activity: Candle, matches, a strip of paper and a pen for each person, a basket or bowl		
Words for closing prayer	1 for reader	See resource sheet

SESSION SETUP

Blu tack the lining paper firmly onto a long wall so there is room for everyone to stand side by side. Ideally it should be 2 strips deep so some can draw lower down and others higher up. Across the centre, with a pencil write 'WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?' and in smaller letters write 'FOR ME' on the left hand side and 'FOR THE WORLD' on the right hand side. Have a table nearby with pencils, felt tips or paints if you are using them. In another area of the room have a circle of chairs ready. If you are using the film clip then set up your TV and DVD player before the young people arrive.

DIRECTIONS



INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY: 10 MINUTES

Sit in a circle and ask them in turn what they most hope to have for their next birthday. Then go round again and ask them what they would ask for if money was no object.

Now a third time go round and ask what they would choose for something that cost NO money (ie health, happiness, love, marriage). With a larger group just ask 5 or 6 young people for their answers.



Asking in turn allows everyone an opportunity to speak



HEARING THE STORY OF BARTIMAEUS: 10 MINUTES

Give out the story of Bartimaeus and read both versions. You could highlight the words of Jesus and Bartimaeus and ask different people to read those parts.



Ask the young people what one question Jesus asked of Bartimaeus (What is it you want?). Remind the group they have been thinking about what they wanted earlier. Now ask them what they would answer if Jesus asked them 'What is it you want?' for themselves and for the world...



BART ART: 30 MINUTES

Invite them to put their answers on the wall. They can draw pictures or do graffiti style writing. Ask them to use various colours, and leave them to get on with it! It may take them a few minutes for them start but they will soon get into it and enjoy being creative. If anyone is not good at writing or drawing they could go over your pencil titles so they are included.



Play some music as they draw - you could start with The Spice Girls - 'I'll tell you what I really, really want'!

When everyone has finished invite them to stand back and look at the whole piece. Perhaps they could each read out the ones they contributed. Admire all of them. End with a simple prayer such as:

Lord Jesus,
We thank you for the gift of creativity.
All our thoughts,
Our desires,
Our prayers,
For ourselves and the world are here.

(pause a moment)

Please hear our prayers,
Amen.



X FACTOR OR STRICTLY COME DANCING: 10 MINUTES

Stand the young people in the centre of the room. Tell them you are going to give them choices to make. If they choose the first they run to the left hand wall and if they choose the second they run to the opposite wall. Call out X Factor or Strictly. Use other pairs such as Strawberries or Bananas, Corrie or Hollyoaks, Ben & Jerry's or Dairy Milk, Daniel Craig or Pierce Brosnan, David Tennant or previous Dr Who's.



Now split into 2 groups and give them a 'head to head' challenge. Each group must nominate 1 person to compete against the other group (but don't tell them what they have to do)

When each challenge is completed ask them to choose another person for the next challenge.

The challenges should be quite simple things such as:

Tear out an elephant from a sheet of newspaper

Saying the alphabet backwards (timed and quickest wins, with a penalty second for any wrong answers)

Who can stand on one leg for the longest time

Now gather the whole group into a circle and ask them if they would have chosen a different member of their group for each task if they had known what the task was going to be.

We have to know what we want someone to do to make the best choice. Knowing what you want before you ask is a good thing. Bartimaeus did just that.

Read the story again and ask the group questions such as:

Did Bartimaeus know what he wanted?

What was it?

What choices did Bartimaeus have to make?

What else could have happened?



FILM CLIP OF "THE TRUMAN SHOW": 20 MINUTES

This film is about a man called Truman who unbeknown to him is a star in a 24 hour soap show on TV. It has filmed him since he was born. All the people he knows – family, friends, neighbours – are all actors. At the end of the film Truman suspects this but isn't sure as it means all the people he loves and trusts have been deceiving him.



He tries several times to leave the island but as he is terrified of water he can't do it. He has to decide what he wants – to stay safe or to take the risk and discover a new life.

Watch the last 15 mins of this film and ask the group to think about the choices Truman has to make while they are watching.



Discussion questions after the film:

What was the bravest thing Truman did?

Why did he do it?

What were the risks?

What was the bravest thing Bartimaeus did?

What were his risks? (seeing would mean a new way of life-he lived by begging before and would no longer be able to do that and would have known no trade)

When do you think Truman began to realise that something was wrong?

(when a studio light fell in from the sky - think about the significance here of light/ Jesus, blind/ dark!)

What did Truman ask of the Director?

What did Bartimaeus ask of Jesus?

What was Truman's final choice?

What was Bartimaeus' final choice?

**When using a film clip
take a few moments
before the young
people arrive to find
the right place on the
DVD so all you have to
do is press play**

Both Truman and Bartimaeus could have stayed where they were in a familiar world but both knew the risk. They both asked for and were given a new way of life.



CLOSING PRAYER: 5 MINUTES

Give everyone a strip of paper and a pen. Light the candle in the centre of the group. Use the words on the print off resource sheet

PRINT-OFF RESOURCES

PRAYER ACTIVITY WORDS

**Jesus, the light of the world is here
When Jesus met Bartimaeus he asked him
‘What do you want?’**

**Now,
Today,
Jesus is asking that question of you-
‘What do you want from me?’**

Think about it for a moment then write your answer on the paper

(allow a few moments for them to do this)

**When you are ready, fold the paper
And put your request into the basket
And go back to your seat**

(say the following prayer after they have all sat down again)

**Lord Jesus
We know that you hear our prayers
Please hear the requests we make
Today and every day
Thank you for listening to us
Amen**