

INTRODUCTION

“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Bartimaeus cried. He knew Jesus could make him see again. The children in your club will learn to call on Jesus for mercy just like Bartimaeus did. It is only because of Jesus’ mercy and grace that we can be saved from sin. The saved children in your club will learn that they should celebrate and praise God when He is working in other people’s lives. As you prepare for this lesson, pray that your children will call on Jesus for mercy and celebrate the good things God does for others.

Concepts covered in this lesson include:

- **God:** Omnipotent—God is all powerful.
- **Jesus:** Jesus is God.
- **God:** Merciful—God shows me mercy (doesn’t give me the punishment I do deserve).
- **Man:** Worshiping and praising God—God deserves our worship. I can praise God. It gives me joy to tell God how wonderful He is.

Demonstrations of the lessons and songs in this series, are available at: cefonline.com/freedemos/gnc



WORD UP!

“Praise God for His mercy!”

Have you ever told God how great and good He is? Telling God how great and good He is is called praising Him. There are many things you can praise God for. You can praise Him for the things He created like your pets. You can praise Him for your family, friends, and teachers. But the most important thing you can praise Him for is His mercy. Mercy is when you don’t get the punishment you deserve. God sent His perfect Son, Jesus, to take your punishment for sin. If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior from sin, you can praise Him for saving you! Whenever you hear the words “Word Up!” jump up and say “**Praise God for His mercy!**” (*Say with children.*)

Materials

Word-Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Show the card and have the children repeat statement: “**Praise God for His mercy!**” Tell them that anytime you call out “Word Up!” they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when they are restless or just anytime!

If you wish to add actions to the Word Up!, wave your hands when you say “praise.” Point up with both hands when you say “God.” Hug yourself when you say “mercy.”



SMALL GROUP TIME

“God’s Promises” (Optional discussion)

Did you look for promises in God’s Word that are for you while you had your Quiet Time last week? Who can tell me about some of them? How do you know you can believe God’s promises? (*Allow responses.*) God is faithful and His Word is true! Let’s look in God’s Word, the Bible, and find some more promises God has made. (*Write the following references on separate slips of paper. Have the children look them up in their own Bibles, Bibles you provide, or read from the slips of paper. Call on volunteers to read.*)

1. 1 John 5:14 (*God promises to hear our prayers.*)
2. Hebrews 13:5b-6a (*Jesus promises to never leave you and to help you.*)
3. Revelation 21:4-5a (*God promises that one day He will make all things new and wipe away all our tears.*)

Which of these promises is most special to you? Why? (*Allow responses.*)

Materials

“God’s Promises—Small Group”
verse reproducible
(See GNC Resource Pack)

Preschool Help

Use different colored bookmarks to mark each of these verses in your Bible. As you prepare to read each verse, have the children help you locate the correct colored tab and then point at the verse while you read it out loud.



LESSON

Materials

Blindfold
Costume

Materials

Point to Jericho on Bible Map.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Have children close their eyes and listen as you jingle coins in your hand.

Preschool Song

"Jesus Loves Me" v. 2

(Before the lesson, pick a teacher or helper to be Bartimaeus throughout the lesson to dramatize it as the story is being told. He could sit in a chair at the front of the room or on the floor with his eyes closed or wearing a blindfold. He could pretend to beg and could shout out, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" when appropriate in the story. Then he could open his eyes in excitement when he is healed. He should act seriously so as not to distract from the lesson. If choosing this activity, some of the child interaction in this lesson will change slightly.)

INTRODUCTION

Close your eyes as tightly as you can and keep them closed until I count to ten. (*Count to ten slowly.*) Now you may open your eyes. Was it hard to keep your eyes closed that long? What did you see while your eyes were shut? (*Allow responses.*) That's right! You couldn't see anything. It was dark. You only had your eyes closed a short time. Imagine what it would be like to live without ever being able to see!

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

The Bible tells us about a man who lived in the beautiful city of Jericho. But this man couldn't see the beauty of Jericho—not even one colorful flower or tall feathery palm tree that was there. He couldn't see anything. To him, the world was always darker than the darkest night. He was blind!

Slide 1

Every morning Bartimaeus probably felt his way along the streets from his home to a certain place outside the city of Jericho. There he sat by the roadside begging for money from the busy people who hurried in and out of the city during the day. Let's close our eyes and pretend we are Bartimaeus. Say, "Can you give me any money?" and hold your hands out. (*Do with the children.*) Can you imagine if you had to do that all day long? That would be hard! I'm sure Bartimaeus didn't want to be a beggar but in those days there were not many jobs for a blind person to do. So day after day he sat begging by the hot, dusty road. Being blind made Bartimaeus' life really hard. It was a big problem for him. Bartimaeus was in darkness physically because of his blindness. He was also in darkness spiritually because of his sin.



You and I are also born in the darkness of sin. Living in sin is like being in darkness because you are apart from God and can't find Him on your own. Sin has blinded you from seeing the truth about yourself and about God. (*Read John 3:19.*) The Bible says that people would rather live in darkness—in sin—because their hearts (their inward thoughts and desires) are evil. You deserve to be punished for your sins—the things you do that are wrong and hurtful that do not please God. Things like breaking someone's windows on purpose, bullying someone at school or thinking mean thoughts about others are sins. God is perfect and sinless. Everything He does is always right! But because you sin and are not perfect, you deserve to be separated from God both now and forever. There is nothing you can do on your own to get rid of the darkness of sin. Being in the darkness of sin is a big problem.

Bartimaeus was in the darkness of sin but he was also in physical darkness because he was blind.

Slide 2

Somehow Bartimaeus heard about Jesus. Maybe he heard about Jesus' miracles. Remember, a miracle is something only God can do. Do you remember some of the miracles Jesus did? (*Allow response.*) Jesus turned water into wine and He healed the nobleman's son. He told the Samaritan woman everything she had ever done. Jesus could do these miracles because He is God the Son! When Jesus did these things, He was showing His care for people.

Jesus had even made a blind man see! Perhaps Bartimaeus had heard about this miracle. He thought Jesus could make him see too!

Bartimaeus and all the people of Israel were waiting for the promised one, the Savior, to come. God had promised the Savior would be someone from the family of the great King David who lived long ago. Sometimes they called this promised Savior the Son of David. The Savior would have an earthly mother but His father would be God. Even though God's people, the Jews, had often turned away from God, He wouldn't break His promise to rescue His people. Could it be true that Jesus was the promised one? Maybe He would heal Bartimaeus and make him see! If only he could meet Jesus! But there was little hope.

Slide 3

Bartimaeus couldn't take a trip to Nazareth. All he could do was sit and beg and hope that maybe someday Jesus would come to Jericho.

When spring arrived, crowds of people began filling the road from Jericho to the capital city of Jerusalem.

Slide 4

It was time for the most special feast (holiday) of the year and many people traveled a long way to celebrate. Maybe some of these people would be kind and give him some money. One day as Bartimaeus sat by the roadside, he heard excited voices and the sound of many feet. He knew it was a big group. Something unusual was going on!

Maybe he called out, "What's going on? Why is there such a large crowd?" "Jesus of Nazareth is coming!" someone may have shouted. Jesus of Nazareth? Bartimaeus trembled with excitement. He must get to Jesus, but how? He couldn't see Jesus and in this big crowd of people Jesus might not see him! What could Bartimaeus do? What would you do if you were Bartimaeus? (*Allow response.*)

Slide 5

There was one thing he could do. He could call out to Jesus. "Jesus, Son of David," Bartimaeus cried, "have mercy on me!"

The people standing in front of Bartimaeus became angry with him. "Be quiet!" they commanded.

But Bartimaeus paid no attention to them. He was afraid Jesus might pass by without hearing him! "Son of David," Bartimaeus kept shouting, "have mercy on me!"

Let's all call out "Son of David, have mercy on me." (*Do with children.*) Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus for help. Bartimaeus was asking for mercy. What is mercy? Showing mercy to someone means showing kindness. He was helpless in his situation. He was crying out for Jesus to show kindness and help him.

Materials

Point to "Jesus shows His power over sickness" on Timeline.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Materials

Point to "God promises David's family a forever throne" on Timeline.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Have children say "the Son of David" and explain that this is a special name or title for the Savior that God had promised to send.

Materials

Point to Nazareth then Jericho on Bible Map.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Passover is the yearly Jewish celebration marking their deliverance from Egypt the night the death angel passed over houses marked with the blood of a lamb.

Preschool Activity

Have preschoolers walk in a line as if they are going to Jerusalem for the feast. Have preschoolers repeat the words, "Jesus of Nazareth is coming!"

Lesson 5

Preschool Song
"God Is So Good" vv. 1-2

Materials
Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Song
"Nothing but the Blood"

When Jesus heard Bartimaeus calling, He immediately stopped walking. Jesus had never met Bartimaeus but He knew him because Jesus is God. He loved Bartimaeus so much and wanted to show mercy to him!



Do you know Jesus knows you and loves you? He wants to show mercy to you. Jesus is God the Son. He made the world and everything in it. God made you and loves you very much. He knows all about you—even about your sin. But because of His great love for you, He wants to show you mercy. (*Read Ephesians 2:4.*) Jesus can forgive you and have mercy on you because He is the good and holy God. He is separate from any sinful thing. He cares for you because you are His creation. There is no one like the one true God! Even though your sin is completely against God and who He is, He shows mercy to you because of His great love.

Slide 6

Say with me, **"Praise God for His mercy!"** (*Say with children.*)

Slide 7

Jesus loved Bartimaeus and wanted to show mercy to him. When Jesus heard Bartimaeus calling, He immediately stopped walking.

Slide 8

"Bring him to me," Jesus said.

"Bartimaeus, get up! He's calling you!" the people said excitedly. Bartimaeus leaped to his feet! On the count of three, jump up just like you think Bartimaeus did. One, two, three! (*Do with children.*) How excited Bartimaeus must have been to come to Jesus!

Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus was the only one who could make Bartimaeus see and He was the only one who could save him from his bigger problem of sin.



Jesus is the only one who can save you from the darkness of your sin. Just a few days after this story took place, the Lord Jesus died on the cross. Jesus is perfect and didn't deserve to die but He willingly bled and died so you could be forgiven when you believe on Him. Was it fair that Jesus, who never did anything wrong, was punished and killed? No! But because He loves you and wants to show you mercy, God allowed His Son, Jesus, to take your punishment. (*Read Colossians 1:13-14.*) God frees you from the darkness of your sin when you believe on His Son. That is God's mercy! After Jesus died, His body was buried but on the third day He came alive again! He lives today in Heaven in a place of honor. He is the promised Savior. **He is the only one who can save you from the darkness of your sin.**

Jesus was the only one who could save Bartimaeus from the darkness of his sin and from his blindness. When Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted, what do you think Bartimaeus said? (*Allow response.*)

"Lord, I want to see," Bartimaeus said.

Bartimaeus believed Jesus was the promised Savior. He believed Jesus could take away his blindness. A hush came over the crowd as everyone watched Jesus. What would He do? "Receive your sight," said Jesus. "Your faith has healed you."

CLIMAX

Slide 9

All of a sudden Bartimaeus could see! It was as though a blindfold had been taken from his eyes!

CONCLUSION

Bartimaeus blinked in the bright sunlight. He saw light! Color! People! He saw the loving face of the Savior. Bartimaeus praised God for giving him his sight! It was such an exciting day for him! But Bartimaeus wasn't the only one praising God. The Bible says all the people who had seen Bartimaeus receive his sight praised God too. They were so happy for Bartimaeus! They praised God for the good thing He had done.

Slide 10

Say with me, **"Praise God for his mercy!"** (*Say with children.*)



If you have already believed on Jesus as your Savior, you can **praise God for the good things He does for others**. When God saves someone from sin or blesses (gives good gifts to) others in a special way, how do you react? Are you happy for them or do you get jealous that something good happened to them and not to you? The Bible says, (*read Philippians 4:4a*). God wants you to praise Him for all the good things He does—even if He does them for someone else! When someone you know believes on Jesus as his Savior, praise God for what He has done. Encourage that person by letting him know you are happy for him. God is pleased when His children praise Him for the good things He does for others.

Slide 11

The crowd praised God for the good thing He had done for Bartimaeus. The Bible tells us that from then on Bartimaeus followed Jesus. Jesus had shown mercy to Bartimaeus—had taken away his blindness and saved him from his sins.

INVITATION



Jesus is the only one who can show mercy to you so you will not be in the darkness of sin anymore. If you don't know Jesus as your Savior, your sin still separates you from God. But God loves you and wants to save you. The Bible says, (*read Acts 16:31*). This means if you believe (trust completely) on Jesus, you will be saved from the punishment of your sin. God will save you, not because of anything good you have done but because of His mercy. Trust that Jesus is God's Son who died on the cross for you. When you believe on Jesus, you are saved from the punishment of your sin and no longer separated from God. He will help you love Him and live for Him. Will you believe on Jesus today as the only one who can save you? Please close your eyes and bow your head. If you want to believe on Jesus as your Savior, show me by raising your hand. (*Acknowledge responses.*) You may open your eyes. If you raised your hand or if you have questions about being saved, please meet me (*designate time and location*) so I can show you what the Bible says about believing in Jesus.

Materials

Point to "Jesus shows His power over sickness" on Timeline.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Lead the children in pointing at different things they can see in the room by saying "Point at something blue that you can see" or "Point at something tall that you can see"

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Song

"Praise Him, Praise Him" v. 1

Important Reminder

Remember, it is not the prayer that saves the child. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit convicting the child of his or her sinful condition and drawing him or her to trust completely in Christ and His work on the cross. The prayer is the child's expression of that belief to God. (See "Guiding a Child to the Savior" on the inside front cover.)

Preschool Invitation

When presenting the invitation to preschoolers, use John 3:15 and "believe in" terminology. Ask those who have questions about believing in Jesus to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.