

Used By God

Small
Group
LessonAges
6-7

Power Point

God can work through me.

Scripture
Memory Verse

[Jesus said] "I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me you will do the same things that I am doing."
—John 14:12a

Bible Lesson

Jesus goes into the city of Jericho and heals a blind man named Bartimaeus.
—Mark 10:46-52; 11:24

Overview

A blind beggar named Bartimaeus saw Jesus pass by. He cried out for His mercy, and told Jesus he wanted to see again. Jesus healed him, telling him his faith made him well. Through this experience, Jesus taught His disciples that God rewards faith with answered prayers. Remind kids that God still works through believers today, and challenge them to build their faith by stepping out in action.

Discussion Questions

1. What did Bartimaeus say to Jesus? (*"Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!"*)
2. How did the blind man show he believed in Jesus? (*He told Him he wanted to see. This showed that he knew Jesus had the power to heal him.*)
3. According to Jesus, what did the blind man do to receive healing? (*He believed. He did not doubt that God could heal him through Jesus.*)
4. Why do you think Bartimaeus followed Jesus down the road after he was healed? (*He wanted to be near Jesus; he wanted to be Jesus' friend; he was grateful.*)
5. When you pray for someone to be healed, do you expect God to heal them? (*Allow responses.*)
6. What do you think God could give you if you had enough faith in Him? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: One 20-pound or two 10-pound barbells.

(*Hold up barbells in front of the kids.*) By a show of hands, who feels confident they can lift these? (*Allow responses.*) Who does NOT feel confident they can lift these? (*Allow responses. Have one of the latter group come forward and attempt to lift the barbell. Support this child's arm with your own hand so the child succeeds in lifting.*)

See how (*name of child*) was able to do it with a little help? This is the way God wants to work through us to do miracles. According to the Bible (Phil. 2:7), when Jesus came to Earth, He gave up the God-strength He had in heaven. In His ordinary human strength, Jesus could not have healed Bartimaeus. But, Jesus was so close to God that He knew when God wanted to do miracles through Him (John 5:19-20). (*Hold the barbell down low and make a face to show how heavy it is.*) Doing the work of God might seem very heavy, and it is a big responsibility. (*Lift up the barbell and smile.*) But with God's power behind your muscles, you can do it!

Raise your hands if you've ever felt you needed God's power in your life. (*Allow a show of hands.*) If you haven't felt that way yet in your life, some day you will! I want you to be ready—ready to have God's power working through you. Let's pray and ask God to put His power behind our muscles,

our words, and our deeds. *(Pray over the kids, asking God to show each one situations in which God wants to work through them.)*



The Jesus Factor

But you will not really be the one speaking. The Spirit from your Father will tell you what to say.

—Matthew 10:20

Materials: Index cards, two paper clips, markers, Bibles.

Preparation: Before class, write the following phrases on index cards: “But you will not really,” “be the one speaking,” “The Spirit from your Father,” “will tell you what to say.” Make a separate stack of four blank index cards. Fasten each stack with a paper clip.

How many of you would like to do some acting today? *(Pick two girls and two boys. Tap each child on the shoulder as you tell them what their character’s name is.)* I’m going to name the girls “Kayla” and “Sarah,” and the boys will be “Brandon” and “Ellis.” You all are four kids that meet at the playground. Each of you will get a card with your lines on it. All you have to do is read the card.

(Give each child a blank card. Watch with the group as the kids admit they don’t know what to say because their card is blank. Then give each one an index card with part of the Jesus Factor verse, and have them read it aloud.)

That was pretty silly for me to give them a blank card, huh? Many of us would like to share Jesus with others in a powerful way. But when it comes to actually telling others about Jesus, we feel like the kids in the skit. We have a blank note card in front of us! In today’s Jesus Factor verse, Jesus tells His disciples what to do in those situations. *(Open your Bible to Matthew 10:20 and read the verse aloud again.)* Let’s thank God for His Holy Spirit. Let’s be glad that **He can work through you and me!**

Small Group Activity

The Power to See

Materials: 1 yard of cloth, large objects for obstacle course (see below).

Preparation: Cut cloth into twelve 4" by 16" strips (to be used as blindfolds). Set up a simple obstacle course of chairs, boxes, hula hoops, etc.

(Divide kids into groups of two or three. One child is blindfolded, and his group mate(s) have to lead him through the obstacle course. Then have children switch roles. Re-convene as a group.)

How did it feel to not be able to see? *(Allow responses.)* How did it feel to see after being blind? *(Allow responses.)* If Jesus were the one who took off your blindfold, how would you react to Him? *(I would be glad; I would thank Him.)* Can we be blind to our need for Jesus? *(Yes, if we don’t think that we need Him, or if we just want to live our own way.)* Many people today do not see their need for Jesus. When Jesus healed Bartimaeus, He was healing people of their blindness to Him, too. Let’s be glad that Jesus has the power to heal our eyes—and our hearts!

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 3 Ages 6-7 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week’s Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you’ll ask them for responses during next week’s K.I.D.S. Church service.

Used By God

Small
Group
LessonAges
8-10

Power Point

God can work through me.

Scripture
Memory Verse

[Jesus said] "I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me you will do the same things that I am doing."
—John 14:12a

Bible Lesson

Jesus goes into the city of Jericho and heals a blind man named Bartimaeus.
—Mark 10:46-52; 11:24

Overview

A blind beggar named Bartimaeus saw Jesus pass by. He cried out for His mercy, and told Jesus he wanted to see again. Jesus healed him, telling him his faith made him well. Through this experience, Jesus taught His disciples that God rewards faith with answered prayers. Remind kids that God still works through believers today, and challenge them to build their faith by stepping out in action.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Bartimaeus shout at Jesus? (*He was excited to see Him; he wanted to get His attention so he could be healed.*)
2. How did that blind man show faith in Jesus? (*He told Jesus that he wanted to see, and didn't hesitate at all. He showed that he believed and trusted that Jesus could heal him.*)
3. What did Jesus tell the blind man? (*"Your eyes are healed because of your faith."*)
4. If you had a disability or illness, and you wanted to be healed, would you jump and shout out in public like Bartimaeus? Why or why not? (*Allow responses.*)
5. What do you think Bartimaeus did after he was healed? (*He may have told other people what happened to him. He may have told them that Jesus really was the Son of God.*)
6. How would you feel if you prayed for someone and God healed this person on the spot? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: large, shallow cardboard box (cut down the sides with an X-acto knife if needed), 2 ping pong balls, 2 straws, markers.

Preparation: Before class, draw a "sad face" on one ping pong ball and a "happy face" on another. Practice tapping the ping pong ball in the box so that it only travels a little, and blowing it through a straw so it will travel far.

(*Hold up the sad-face ping pong ball and one straw.*) I think it would be fun to let this ball zip around in my box, kind of like a pinball game. But if I just put the ball in, it won't go anywhere. The ball needs *power* to get to the other side of the box. (*Set the ball in the box and tap ineffectually. Then, show the group the other ball, and demonstrate how the power of your breath in the straw gets the ping pong ball going. Show the "happy face" of the second ball.*)

The air blowing through this straw is sort of like God blowing His Holy Spirit through you. Think about Jesus for a moment. He was full of God's Holy Spirit at all times. He was fully lead by God's Holy Spirit at all times. The power of God's Holy Spirit flowed through Him and allowed Him to heal Bartimaeus. Jesus didn't depend on His God-power to heal people: He knew what the Father wanted to do and relied on the power of the

Holy Spirit to do it. Without the Holy Spirit, you flounder like the “sad face” ball. But with God’s Holy Spirit-power, you can do whatever God wants you to do! You will have many opportunities to do God’s work in your lifetime. Ask for God’s Holy Spirit to work through you so you can show God’s power. Thank God that **He can work through you.**

(Allow the kids to break into groups of two or three and pray for one another. Pray that God would work through each one for His glory.)



The Jesus Factor

But when someone arrests you, don’t worry about what you will say or how you will say it. At that time you will be given the words to say. But you will not really be the one speaking. The Spirit from your Father will tell you what to say.

—Matthew 10:19-20

Materials: Headset (such as a BlueTooth or other hands-free wireless device), whiteboard, dry erase markers.

Preparation: Write the Jesus Factor verse on the whiteboard.

(Hold the headset up in front of the kids.) This is a headset. Have you ever seen one? What do they do? *(Allow responses.)* In TV or movie production, directors use headsets similar to this one to give instructions without others listening in. A director can tell an actor exactly what to do or say, and you may not even know he’s doing that! *(Have a child read the Jesus Factor verse aloud.)* When we have a lot of practice listening to God, He can give us the words to say, much like He’s speaking through a headset. The early Christians were good at this—when they were arrested for following Jesus, God gave them the right words to say through the Holy Spirit headset. God can still bring words of healing and blessing to others through us. Practice listening to God by reading your Bible and praying every day—that way, you are tuned in to ‘God’s channel’ on the headset. You never know when God might choose to work through you!

Small Group Activity

Led by God

Materials: 1 ½ to 2 yards of cloth, chairs.

Preparation: Cut cloth into twelve 4" by 16" strips (to be used as blindfolds) and twelve 2" by 12" strips of cloth (to be used as hand ties). Use chairs to create a “maze” in one end of your meeting area.

(Divide kids into groups of two or three. One child is blindfolded, and his group mate(s) have to lead him through the maze. They must do so with their own hands tied behind their backs. Kids will have to get creative as they lead their “blind” friend without the benefit of their hands. After each group goes through the maze, ask the “guides” to take the blindfolds off of their friends with hands still bound! Have children sit down.)

How did it feel to not be able to see? Was it difficult to guide your partner when you had a handicap too? When it comes to following Jesus or pleasing God, we have a handicap, too. The Bible calls it, “the flesh.” Being “in the flesh” means doing things our own way instead of listening to God or caring about what He has clearly said. Also, even when we’re trying to follow Jesus or please God, we often find ourselves trying to do His work in our own wisdom and strength. Then we get frustrated because we don’t see His power. It’s kind of like in our game with someone without the use of his or her arms trying to lead the blindfolded person. Hard to do, isn’t it? We must humble ourselves before God, listen to Him, and ask Him to use us. When we pray and tap into God’s power, **God can work through us.**

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 3 Ages 8-10 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week’s Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you’ll ask them for responses during next week’s K.I.D.S. Church service.

Used By God

Small
Group
LessonAges
11-12

Power Point

God can work through me.

Scripture
Memory Verse

[Jesus said] "I tell you for certain that if you have faith in me you will do the same things that I am doing."
—John 14:12a

Bible Lesson

Jesus goes into the city of Jericho and heals a blind man named Bartimaeus.
—Mark 10:46-52; 11:24

Overview

A blind beggar named Bartimaeus saw Jesus pass by. He cried out for His mercy, and told Jesus he wanted to see again. Jesus healed him, telling him his faith made him well. Through this experience, Jesus taught His disciples that God rewards faith with answered prayers. Remind kids that God still works through believers today, and challenge them to build their faith by stepping out in action.

Discussion Questions

1. How did the crowd react to Bartimaeus? What does that tell you about the crowd? (*Many people in the crowd told Bartimaeus to be quiet. Maybe they did this because they didn't really believe that Jesus would heal someone.*)
2. How could you tell that Bartimaeus really believed in Jesus? (*He did not hesitate to ask Jesus for healing.*)
3. What was the reason Jesus gave for Bartimaeus' healing? (*Jesus said, "Your eyes are healed because of your faith."*)
4. If you had a disability or illness, and knew Jesus was in the crowd, would you ask for healing as boldly as Bartimaeus? Why or why not? (*Allow for responses.*)
5. Has God ever used you to do something big? Have you ever asked Him to? (*Allow for responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: A Christian magazine containing photos of sports stars.

(*Show a picture of a sports star giving glory to God [such as pointing to heaven] to the group.*) How many of you have seen a sports star do something like this at a game or on TV? (*Allow responses.*) Some athletes believe in Jesus, and they see their position in professional sports as a "platform" to tell others about their faith. How many of you would be excited to be in their position? (*Allow a show of hands.*) In a very real way, **God is working through them** to be a witness to nonbelievers and encourage those who already believe.

In reality, only a few get to play professional sports, and only a few will "give glory to God" with millions watching. But all of us have opportunities to be used by God every day. Maybe God wants you to talk to the kid next to you on the school bus, or the lady next door. Jesus took an opportunity while He was passing through the town of Jericho! He healed someone while going about His everyday business. Each of you will go to different schools, work different jobs, and live in different places. Each of you has different talents. God will open up chances to be a witness for Christ wherever you are. You might have an opportunity even bigger than "giving God props" at a ball game. **God can work through you!**

(Have kids break into groups of two or three and pray for each other. Direct kids to tell their group mates a specific place they would like for God to work through them, such as at home with family, with neighborhood friends, etc. Close with a group prayer, that God would work through them to bless others everywhere they go.)



The Jesus Factor

But when someone arrests you, don't worry about what you will say or how you will say it. At that time you will be given the words to say. But you will not really be the one speaking. The Spirit from your Father will tell you what to say.

—Matthew 10:19-20

Materials: Bible.

(Have a child look up the Jesus Factor verse and read it out loud to the group.) The early Christians were sometimes arrested—not because they committed a crime, but because the government didn't like what they believed. What happens when someone gets arrested today? Think of movies, 'cop' shows...." (They might fight with the cop, swear, say 'I didn't do it!' etc.) Read the Miranda Rights aloud:

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you.

Have you ever wondered why the suspect has "the right to remain silent"? They have the right to remain silent so that they do not confess to the crime by mistake. When the early Christians were arrested, how do you think they reacted? *(They would be quiet; they would be kind to their captors; they would pray for their captors; they would trust God for the right words to say.)* Wow...they would treat their captors with the kindness of Christ. That's a big contrast to how "criminals" typically act! In our next activity, you will also have a chance to listen for the words of the Holy Spirit.

Small Group Activity

Arresting Circumstances

Materials: "Arresting Circumstances Cards" from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM, Bibles.

Preparation: Before class, print out the "Arresting Circumstances Cards" onto card stock. Cut apart on the lines.

Kids, one of the wonderful things about living in our contry is the religious freedom we have. We can preach Christ in public. We can own as many Bibles and Christian CDs as we want. We can have a church service anywhere. But in many places, people don't have those freedoms. People can be arrested for practicing their Christian faith! See if you can listen to the Holy Spirit as you act out a skit on "arresting circumstances." Some of you will play Christians in these skits, and some will play the authorities. If you're playing a Christian, bring Christ's love into the situation with your actions.

(Have kids form small groups of three and four. Give each group an Arresting Circumstances card and instruct them to improvise a skit based on the situation on the card. Have kids perform these skits, and praise their efforts. Lead the kids in a closing prayer, thanking God for His willingness to use us in His kingdom.)

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 3 Ages 11-12 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you'll ask them for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.