

HE CALLS YOU !

THE STORY OF BLIND BARTIMAEUS

Based on Mark 10:46-52

Hey boys and girls, today I'm going to share a story with you that is right out of the Bible, God's perfect, Holy book.

As I tell the story we are going to be looking for some "B's." We are going to do some "B" collecting. We won't be collecting bumble bees though. Instead of those kinds of bees we will be looking for a few words that start with the letter "B."

1. Paint in the lower half of the large "P" to make it into a large "B." (The large "B" will be the first letter in all of our "B" words.)

Our story is about a man in the Bible whose name starts with the letter 'B.' Can you think of a boy's name that starts with a "B?" (Let them take two or three guesses and then you say ...)

No, this man's name is Bartimaeus, but we are going to call him Bart for short. That's our first "B" word.

2. Write in Bart close to the top of the big "B."

Now every day Bart would sit outside the gate of the old city of Jericho.

3. Paint in Bart's head and arms.

Bart sat outside the gate because many people passed by each day along the road to Jericho.

4. Paint in the heads, arms and feet of a few of the people nearest the gate.

Why did Bart just sit there? Well, Bart had a problem. He used a cane to help him walk around. Do you know what his problem was? That's right, Bart was blind. That's a "B" word so let's write it over here.

5. Write in Blind right under Bart.

What do you think it would be like to be blind? It wouldn't be much fun would it? You wouldn't be able to read, watch T.V. or play video games. You wouldn't even be able to see my painting. It would make it a lot harder to do everything.

Things were hard for Bart. He couldn't be a farmer, carpenter, or a shopkeeper so he had to find some other way to get money so that he could live. So every day Bart sat there near the gate and when the people would walk by he would shake his cup and he would ask them for money.

6. Paint in the cup in Bart's left hand.

What do you call people who are poor and are always asking people for money? It's another 'B' word. (They guess or you tell them.) That's right, Bart had to be a beggar.

7. Write in Beggar right under Blind.

Now here's the exciting story of what happened to Bart the blind beggar.

It was a day that started out just like any other day. Bart went to his usual spot near the gate of Jericho and he was sitting there begging for money as people walked by. Then, Bart heard the sound of a large crowd coming near the gate. They were making a lot of noise and they sounded very excited.

8. Paint in the heads, arms and feet of the rest of the crowd. (Except Jesus)

Bart just had to know what was going on so he asked a man nearby what was happening. The man told him that the people were excited because Jesus was passing by.

9. (As you say the above) Write JESUS in the title in ladder lettering.

Bart got all excited too!! He had heard a lot about Jesus and how He could heal sick people and bring dead people back to life. But Bart was really excited because he had heard that Jesus could also make blind people see.

10. Paint in the head and hands of Jesus.

Now Bart couldn't see Jesus even though He was right in front of him, but he believed all the things he had heard about Him. Why there's another "B" word right there, Bart believed.

11. Write in Believed under Beggar.

Because Bart believed, he yelled out to Jesus saying, "Jesus have mercy on me." Many people in the crowd warned Bart to be quiet, but he yelled out even more "Jesus have mercy on me." Boys and girls, if anyone ever tries to keep you from calling out to Jesus, don't listen to them. Jesus wants you to call out to Him for help.

Well, Jesus heard Bart's cry and He stopped. He sent one of his friends over to tell Bart that He wanted to talk to him. His friend told Bart, "Jesus is calling you."

12. Write in IS CALLING in the title in ladder lettering.

Bart was so excited he jumped up and went quickly to where Jesus was. When he got there Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bart said, "Lord I want to receive my sight." Jesus said to Bart, "Go on your way, your faith has made you well." Immediately Bart received his sight and he gave God praise and he began to follow Jesus too.

Boys and girls Bart couldn't see Jesus but he believed in Him and because he believed in Him, or had faith in Him, he was blessed. Blessed, that's our last "B" word so let's write it in.

13. Write in "Blessed" as the last "B." word.

So Bart was a blind beggar who believed in Jesus and was blessed. That's what the Lord Jesus did for him that day in Jericho.

But did you know that Bart had a much worse problem than being blind and that you and I have the very same problem? Do you know what it is? It's called sin.

14. Complete the Word SIN in the partial letters at the top of the page just under the title.

Does anyone know what sin is? (They guess or you tell them.) Sin is doing things that displease God. He has told us how to live in the Bible which is His Word to us. When we don't do what the Bible tells us and do bad things God calls that sin.

Do you think you have ever sinned boys and girls? Well, let's see. Have you ever...

Told a lie? Disobeyed your parents? Hated someone? Called anyone a name? Been mean to anyone or even hit or kicked them because you were mad? Said bad words? Stolen anything, even something small? That's all sin! (You can ask them to raise their hands and you and the other adults can raise your hands to show your guilt also.)

You see boys and girls we have all done wrong things and sinned against God. (Romans 3:10, 23). The Bible says nothing is hidden from God so He sees and hears every sin we do. God says that sin is really bad and He must punish it. He says it's so bad that people who sin will be punished in a terrible place called Hell. God never lies. He always keeps His word.

But God says in the Bible that He loves all of us and He doesn't want us to be punished. He would rather us be with Him in Heaven when we die. God wants to forgive our sin, but it had to be paid for before it could be forgiven. That's why a long, long time ago, God sent His own Son Jesus out of Heaven to the Earth. Jesus came to be our substitute and take our punishment for us. God loves us so much, He sent His Son to be punished in our place. (John 3:16)

When Bart met Him in Jericho, Jesus was on His way to another town called Jerusalem to take the punishment for all of the sins of all the people in the world. To do that Jesus had to die because sin is so bad that God says it must be paid for by death. (Romans 6:23)

Jesus never did anything wrong. He never sinned like you and me, that's why He could take our punishment and be our substitute. He was the only person in the whole world who was good enough to die for all the bad things we've done. So in Jerusalem, Jesus was treated like a criminal even though He had never done anything bad. People whipped Him and then hung Him on a cross by putting nails in His hands and feet.

15. Paint in the Cross with the Horizontal bar covering over sin and paint in the three nails and put the blood coming from around each nail.

Jesus died there on that cross and then they took Him down. They buried Him in a tomb or a cave and rolled a big rock in front of it but after three days God brought Him back to life, raised Him from the dead and He left the tomb. He stayed on Earth for forty days and then after He was seen alive by over 500 people, He went back to Heaven to be with His Father.

16. Paint in the rock by the tomb, draw an arrow up to the word Heaven.

17. Complete the word HEAVEN in the partial lettering just under the title.

So how can we go to Heaven? The Bible says if we will be truly sorry to God for all of the bad things we have done and turn away from doing them and if we will believe that Jesus died to pay for our sins and rose from the grave and accept Him as our substitute, then we can go to Heaven when we die and be with Jesus forever and ever. Boys and girls the Bible says that is the only way we can ever get to Heaven. There is no other way. (John 14:6)

18. Write in YOU in the title in ladder lettering. Today Jesus is calling you. He wants to forgive you for all the wrong things you have done. Maybe you can hear Him talking to your heart telling you that you need to believe in Him. You don't have to see Him, but you do have to believe in Him. People often say seeing is believing, but Bart found out when it comes to Jesus, believing is seeing.

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