

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### JESUS INCLUDES BARTIMAEUS

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**📖 Mark 10:46-52 Jesus heals a blind man**

**🎯 Aim: To learn how Jesus puts people first**

Throughout our sessions this month, we are going to be thinking about belonging and the way Jesus included people living with a disability. There is so much we can learn from Jesus about ways to include people and help them to feel welcome. In today's story we meet Bartimaeus, a blind man who called out to Jesus from the crowd. Jesus took the time to be with Bartimaeus, reminding him that he was wonderfully made.

Each child will need:

- Bible verse wristband
- A range of resources for the children to be creative in art, or alternatively in writing, maths, IT, music ... – see Action It section

You will need:

- Slips of paper with characters' names on them, characters that your group will know, eg from books or films, plus spare slips
- A horn or bell (either the object or its sound from an app)
- A large sheet of paper and pen for a list

## Start It

**💬 Say:** Throughout our sessions this month we are going to be thinking about the way Jesus included people living with a disability. Today we will meet a Bible character called Bartimaeus who was blind. Many people in the UK and Ireland live with sight loss, and we all play an important part in helping them to feel included.

Play a game of guess the character. Children take turns describing a character given them on a slip of paper – or they can choose their own. However, they are not allowed to describe the character's actual appearance – what the character looks like.

Encourage the children to rely on all their senses apart from sight. They can describe what the character likes to do, their personality, or even what they smell like, but they cannot mention their appearance. Use a horn or bell or computer 'Uh-oh!' to sound every time they describe something visual by mistake. Demonstrate the game for the children first.

## Sing It

**💬 Say:** Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we are wonderfully made. God does not make mistakes, and he thinks we are pretty amazing!

### Memory verse

**'I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way.  
What you have done is wonderful.  
I know this very well.'**

— (Psalm 139:14 ICB)

The design on the wristband shows the BSL sign for 'God', which is the same as The Salvation Army's salute.

**Say:** Let's share a song together, based on the words of Psalm 139:14.

'Psalm 139:14' lyric and dance video by Kids on the Move (1:58)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7603oH33Ghs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7603oH33Ghs)

## Tell It

**Ask:** What does it mean to be included in something?

**Say:** In the Bible we read lots of stories where Jesus took the time to include people who would have otherwise been left alone and rejected. He made a special effort to make sure that everyone knew how much they were loved by God. In today's story Jesus takes the time to care for a man who is blind. His name was Bartimaeus.

**Read:**

'Then they came to the town of Jericho. As Jesus was leaving there with his followers and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting by the road. He heard that Jesus from Nazareth was walking by. The blind man cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, please help me!"

'Many people scolded the blind man and told him to be quiet. But he shouted more and more, "Son of David, please help me!"

'Jesus stopped and said, "Tell the man to come here."

'So they called the blind man. They said, "Cheer up! Get to your feet. Jesus is calling you." The blind man stood up quickly. He left his coat there and went to Jesus.

'Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

'The blind man answered, "Teacher, I want to see again."

'Jesus said, "Go. You are healed because you believed." At once the man was able to see again, and he followed Jesus on the road.'

— (Mark 10:46-52 ICB)

**Ask:**

- Why do you think Bartimaeus was begging for money on the streets?
- How did the people react to Bartimaeus shouting out and asking Jesus for help?
- How did Bartimaeus react?

**Say:** In Bible times it was almost impossible for blind people to work and earn a living. People often believed that if someone had an illness or physical disability, then they must have done something wrong. This meant that people with disabilities were often rejected from society and had to ask others for money. Jesus had different ideas about the way people like Bartimaeus should be treated.

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus do when he heard Bartimaeus calling to him?
- How did Jesus showing an interest change how the crowd reacted?

**Say:** Jesus showed kindness to Bartimaeus, and it changed how the people saw him.

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus ask Bartimaeus?
- Do you think it was a strange question? If so, why?

**Say:** Even though Jesus knew that Bartimaeus was blind, he wanted to give him the opportunity to speak for himself. Sometimes people with a disability can feel like everyone else is speaking for them. Although others are often trying to be helpful, Jesus recognised that Bartimaeus was perfectly capable himself of saying what he needed from Jesus.

### Ask:

- What did Bartimaeus ask for?
- How did Jesus respond?

**💬 Say:** After his sight was restored, Bartimaeus continued to follow Jesus. Sharing the love of Jesus and including people the way he did makes a difference. We can make a difference too by listening to those who are usually ignored and making them feel part of what is going on.

## Action It

**💬 Say:** Psalm 139 reminds us that we are created by God and deeply loved. At times we may feel that there are things about us that are not wonderfully made, but God thinks differently. He created our personalities, our interests, our quirks, and he loves everything about us. Today we are going to celebrate the wonderful creation of you.

We're going to watch a clip that shows amazing children wonderfully created by God. They are sharing the words of Psalm 139.

### Video

'Psalm 139' by Willow Creek Community Church (2:29)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTbellWpERs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTbellWpERs)

As a group, list all the different parts that make up who God created us to be: personality, strengths, weaknesses, interests, appearance, habits ...

### Be creative

Give the children the opportunity to create a piece of artwork or a collage that represents who they are and that they are wonderfully made. Some children may need some additional support and guidance, but the aim is for the children to express themselves.

The aim of this task is to celebrate their individuality, so if there are children that do not enjoy art, then they could create something else instead. They could write a poem, create a maths equation that sums up their personality, create a tune or even create a PowerPoint presentation. You know your children, so adapt this activity to suit the way that they are wonderfully made.

## Pray It

**💬 Say:** We are going to spend time thanking God for the way that he made us. Sometimes we focus on the things we don't like about ourselves, but God thinks we are wonderfully made – and he can't be wrong, because he is God!

Ask the group to stand in a circle and bring their creations from the Action It activity. Once each member of the group has shared their creation, then ask the children to take it in turns to finish this sentence:

'I am wonderfully made because ...'

Example: 'I am wonderfully made because I can always tell when someone needs a hug.'

When each child has had their turn, pray with the group and thank God for each of them.

## Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

JULY  
SESSION 01

### JESUS INCLUDES BARTIMAEUS

 Mark 10:46-52 Jesus heals a blind man

© Aim: To learn how Jesus puts people first

## FOR ME

## TOGETHER



### Explore

Watch the clip based on our memory verse and listen to the rest of the psalm (with the help of some Lego minifigures).

*Lego Psalm 139* by CODECUK

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eQ7D-A00Bw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eQ7D-A00Bw)



### Create

Many visually impaired people use audiobooks to hear new and exciting stories. Ask the people at home to help you create an audiobook of your favourite Bible story, perhaps using a phone to record your voice.



### Song for the week

'Psalm 139:14' lyric and dance video  
by Kids on the Move

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7603oH33Ghs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7603oH33Ghs)



### Memory verse

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me in an amazing and wonderful way.  
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### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

*Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

