

**LESSON 3: A CRAZY QUESTION FOR A BLIND MAN**

This includes:

- 1. LEADER PREPARATION**
- 2. LESSON GUIDE**

**1. LEADER PREPARATION****LESSON OVERVIEW**

The interaction between Jesus and Bartimaeus in Mark 10 is beautiful, because it shows Jesus as a thoughtful healer. Isn't it obvious what a blind man would want a healer to do for him? But Jesus still takes the time to consider his desire. As we more and more invite Jesus to be our catalyst in life—a life of good deeds and grace—let us always consider the person before we consider the good deed we want to do. What real need can you meet for someone today? How will you find out what that need is? This lesson will challenge your students to consider real-world answers to those real-life questions.

**LESSON OBJECTIVES**

- 1. WHAT:** Jesus has no problem asking crazy questions, but he asks them for a greater reason and a deeper purpose than just discovering information.
- 2. WHY:** This Christian life is not all about the things we must do for Jesus; it is also about the things we want and need him to do for us.
- 3. HOW:** Your students will be encouraged to consider how Jesus' interaction with Bartimaeus can impact the way they treat others around them—including how they might respond to other people's needs.

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE**

Mark 10:46-52

**SECONDARY SCRIPTURE**

James 1:17

**TEACHING PREP**

**LEADER  
TIP**

**Use this short overview to prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your group, you'll want to absorb it as you prepare to lead.**

**Read Mark 10:46-52.**

During Jesus' earthly ministry some 2,000 years ago, there weren't many medical options for people with physical impairments. This was especially true for people who were blind. They were treated as being among the lowest of society and were often found sitting on the ground at the corners of the busiest, dustiest spots of town. All day long they would beg people for food and water. One day Jesus passed by Bartimaeus and had a very interesting interaction.

As word got out about who Jesus was and the miracles he was performing, travel for Jesus and his disciples became increasingly more difficult. As he would enter villages, both he and his disciples would be confronted by all kinds of people—people that wanted to meet him, people that wanted a miracle, and also people that didn't like him very much. There was always a crowd. This is why, as Bartimaeus shouted out to him from across the street, the disciples began to quiet him down. Bartimaeus would not be quieted, though—he began to shout all the more. There was desperation in his voice, and once Jesus heard it, he answered the man's call.

The conversation between Jesus and the blind man was, at first glance, fairly comedic. It was obvious to the disciples (as well as everyone else around) that Bartimaeus was blind—and everyone in the crowd expected that Jesus was going to heal his blindness. But the way Jesus went about it is where we find the real significance of this passage.

As the blind man was called to his feet, he approached Jesus. Jesus then asked a seemingly silly question: “What do you want me to do for you?” Of course Bartimaeus would want to have his sight restored—so why would Jesus have to ask him? Why not just touch his eyes, heal him, and move on?

This beautiful question of Jesus helps us to better understand the role he wants to play in our life. This Christian life is not all about the things we must do for Jesus; it is also about the things we want and need him to do for us.

## **THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]**

### **TEXTS OR TWEETS**

**Send one or both of these messages to your students prior to your meeting. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.**

- If Jesus asked you what you needed from him, how would you answer his question? Let's explore a different view of Jesus tonight.
- What happened when Jesus met a blind dude? He asked him the craziest question ever. Come out this week to find out what Jesus asked.

### **PARENT EMAIL**

**Send this email to parents following the lesson to encourage them to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.**

Dear parents,

We're three weeks into our series focusing on questions Jesus asked in the Gospels. Each week, our students are examining a different passage of Scripture to discover the backstory behind some of those questions.

In this third lesson, we explored Mark 10:46-52, where Jesus met Bartimaeus, a blind man who called out for Jesus to heal him. The interesting point of this interaction is not that Jesus healed him, but the question Jesus asked him right before he did it. “What do you want me to do for you?” is not a question that we often associate

with our relationship with Jesus. Sometimes we get stuck thinking that our faith journey is all about what we should be doing for God. This week we discussed how Jesus wants to do something for us—we just need to ask.

This week, take some time to talk with your teenager about our lesson. Here are some questions you might want to ask:

- What do we want and need Jesus to do for us?
- What can keep us from asking Jesus to help us with things we can't change on our own?
- What are some specific things that Jesus has already done for us? How can we be more thankful for those things?

Have an awesome week!

## LESSON 3: A CRAZY QUESTION FOR A BLIND MAN

## 2. LESSON GUIDE

## GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

LEADER  
TIP

Before your students arrive, find something that you would personally like to receive as a gift and wrap it up with colorful paper and a bow. But the object you wrap up should be something that only you would like—and, hopefully, not something your students would enjoy receiving. We suggest, if possible, selecting something that you already own, such as a toaster or some office products.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then lead students in this opening activity.

Ask your students to talk about different gifts they have received over the years. Go around the room and ask each person to share about their most favorite gift and their least favorite. Explore with them why they liked or didn't like each gift.

Once you are finished, reveal the gift that you wrapped up prior to their arrival. Place it on a table or on the floor in the middle of your group, and ask kids to guess what's inside. As they pick it up and hand it to one another, talk about how amazing this gift is and how they're sure to love it. Choose one student to open it—and then dialogue about their reaction once everyone knows what's inside. (Hopefully, they're not nearly as excited to receive it as you are to give it!)

To really drive home this example, consider asking students (prior to opening the gift) what would be the best gift they could receive right at that moment.

## ASK:

- *Think of a time you were given a gift that you didn't really want—what did you do with it?*
- *Talk about a time when you gave someone a gift that you thought they'd love, but they didn't—what was that like?*
- *What do you think is the best way to make sure that you give someone a gift they really want and will value?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Usually when we get a gift we don't like, it's because the other person doesn't know us well or didn't really think about what we wanted or needed. When Jesus interacted with people, he was always deeply concerned about their needs. Let's look at a Scripture passage about a man who received an amazing gift from Jesus—and the surprising question Jesus asked right before giving this man his gift.*

## TEACHING POINTS



Use the Teaching Points to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.

Read Mark 10:46-52 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so several people have a chance to read.

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Let's spend a few minutes exploring this crazy question that Jesus asked.*

### 1. JESUS WANTS TO HEAR FROM US

#### ASK:

- *Imagine that you've been invited to a 30-minute, face-to-face conversation with Jesus—and you get to decide what you're going to talk about for the entire time. What topic(s) would you pick, and why?*
- *How would you re-create this passage from Mark 10 in a movie scene? What would it look like?*
- *Why would the crowd tell the blind man to be quiet? Wouldn't they want to witness a healing? Explain your perspective.*
- *Have you ever experienced a time when it seemed like people didn't "get" you? What did that feel like?*
- *What was most interesting about Jesus' response to the crowd?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Sometimes in life we feel like nobody hears us. Maybe the noise around us is too loud, or maybe we just have a hard time communicating. Either way, Jesus wants to hear from us. He wants to stop everything and have a conversation.*

### 2. JESUS HAS NO PROBLEM ASKING CRAZY QUESTIONS

#### ASK:

- *Tell us the most recent crazy question you asked—or someone asked you.*
- *What is so crazy about the question Jesus asked Bartimaeus?*
- *What does this question tell you about Jesus? What was Jesus really attempting to communicate here?*
- *Why is it so risky for most of us to respond honestly to the question Jesus asked Bartimaeus?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Jesus' questions sometimes are more about us than about him. It was completely possible for Jesus to provide healing without Bartimaeus explaining what he wanted and needed. But this interaction shows us just how much Jesus wants to meet our needs. Jesus is the gift-giver in this story—he made sure he gave Bartimaeus exactly the right gift, and he made sure Bartimaeus declared the specific need in his life.*

### 3. FAITH IN JESUS PRODUCES MIRACLES

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *As Jesus talked with Bartimaeus, it became apparent to everyone that this man wanted to be healed from his blindness. Blindness wasn't just a physical condition for Bartimaeus; it was also his identity. Jesus said it was his faith that made him see, but it wasn't a faith in seeing that healed him—rather it was Bartimaeus' faith in Jesus as the healer that made him well. He traded his view of who he was for Jesus' view of who he could be.*

Ask students to form groups of two or three to discuss these questions.



#### ASK:

- *Talk about a specific experience in your life that has helped you develop a deeper trust and faith in Jesus' ability to meet your needs.*
- *How does this passage of Scripture change or challenge your view of Jesus as a healer?*
- *How might this passage change the way we treat others around us—including how we might respond to other people's needs?*

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

### EXTRA DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

#### ASK:

- *Read James 1:17. What does "perfect gift" really mean? How would you explain that?*
- *Why do we sometimes struggle to accept God as a great gift-giver?*
- *We might quickly point to Jesus as the greatest gift God ever gave, but what are some other specific examples of amazing gifts from God?*

### LIVING IT OUT

#### ASK:

- *How has today's conversation shaped or impacted your view of Jesus?*
- *We all want or need something—if Jesus were standing in front of you right now asking you what you want him to do for you, what would you say?*
- *We encounter people like Bartimaeus every day—people that are needy and hurting. Based on this interaction with Bartimaeus, what's one way you could leave a lasting, Jesus-centered impact on their lives?*

### SUMMARY



Provide a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) this lesson's content, (2) the dialogue that took place today, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

**FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]**

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the Scripture below.

*“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked” (Mark 10:51).*