***The Beggar Who Refused to be Quiet, March 15, 2020 @Home Sunday School***

**Lesson Aim: To help kids understand that we can call to Jesus and talk to Him.**

**The students will enjoy a firsthand encounter with Biblical character Bartimaeus who was blind. They will make a “Shout for Jesus!” banner and plan for specific ways they’ll follow Jesus this week.**

**Bible Basis: Mark 10:46-52**

Before you begin the story, have the kids spread out around your room and stand up. As you read don’t read the words in parenthesis. They are just ideas for you parents. Also, have fun!!!

Say: Today, you’re going to help me tell about what really happened to Bartimaeus who was blind. Let me set the background for today’s Bible Story. There are no pirates involved, I promise. But when I tell you what the people did, your job is to act it out. I’ll give you clues to follow. Ready? Here we go.

Jesus and lots of other people were traveling up to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Sling your heavy bag over your shoulder and walk in place (Demonstrate how heavy your pretend bag is and wipe your brow as you walk in place.) This was an exciting time in the Jewish year. The law said that every Jewish male over the age of 12 who lived near Jerusalem had to travel to Jerusalem for Passover. And Jews from all over Israel made the trip to Jerusalem. Keep walking! Boy, these bags are heavy!

People traveled in family groups and in groups from towns and districts (help the kids to walk in a group or pretend to give high fives to imaginary friends). Everyone sang special songs as they traveled, children played, and they all camped at night, made cheerful campfires, cooked what they’d brought along for food, and shared stories. Stop walking for the night, and choose whether you’ll sing, jump rope, or make a campfire and cook (Demonstrate the campout fun such as pretending to sing, jumping rope, or make a campfire and cooking. Lead the kids through all three/four things in a row for 30 seconds).

Everyone freeze in place! One thing the Israelites ate was flat bread baked over hot rocks and salted fish. Maybe that doesn’t sound quite as good as what we have today, but let’s eat anyway (Have kids pretend to eat and make yucky faces).

Okay, time to walk again. Put your bag back over your shoulder and walk. As they passed through towns, people who couldn’t make the pilgrimage stood beside the road to wave and cheer travelers and family members along. It was like one giant festival for the entire country. Let’s pretend to be the crowd, waving and cheering on the travelers (wave and cheer with kids, saying things such as, “Be Safe” “Have a nice journey!” AND “don’t get blisters.”

Back then, if you got to travel close to a famous rabbi like Jesus, you were especially blessed, because rabbis taught as they walked along. People who’d never heard Jesus before probably wanted to get close to him so they could see why everyone was excited about him (Have one of your kiddos play Jesus and continue walking, and if there are more kids there have them come closer to Jesus. If not, you the parent, just walk near that child.)

Of course, this was a great opportunity for the poor, sick, outcast, and people who begged for money, too. The travelers were in a good mood (smile big), so they would give alms, or money, they could to the poor who would beg close to the road where travelers walked. (feel free to give coins to the kid(s)). A city gate was one of the best places for a person who begged because travelers had to stop and pay taxes when entering a city.

READ: Either you or someone else can then Read the Attachment Blind Bartimaeus Tells His Story. You might want to print two because there are two parts although one part only has one sentence.

When finished clap for the participants. I hope that was fun.

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Conclusion

There is another surprising thing that Bartimaeus did besides shouting for Jesus. He left his begging spot and followed Jesus right away.

That’s surprising. Someone else might have been a little curious about what the world looked like or what the people who helped him might have looked like.

Ask:

What do you think about Bartimaeus’ decision to leave a place that was familiar to him and follow Jesus?

What kids of things keep us from following Jesus the way Bartimaeus did?

What would it take for you to drop everything and follow Jesus like that?

Brainstorm ways to follow Jesus this week while home and write those down.

Close with Prayer:

One way of talking to Jesus is by praying. Take some time to lead your kiddos in prayer.

Suggestions for Prayer: Pray for your family, those that are sick, safety, our church, community, and whatever else may be on your minds today. Pray for the ways that you brainstormed about serving this week. Have the kids pray out loud, too. End with In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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Life Application Craft. See attachment Banner Letters.

You will need a 40-inch length of ribbon (one for each child), string, or something along those lines. You will need scissors, colored pens (optional), and glue or tape. You will need to print the attachment two for each child.

Lead kids through these steps or just do it as you see fit. I know that ages and abilities will vary:

1. Like up the two handouts, one exactly on top of the other and cut out all the letter rectangles.
2. If you want have the kids color the letters.
3. Place the letters so they spell, “Shout for Jesus!” Vertically with one letter facing up and one letter facing down, so the finished banner will be two-sided.
4. Knot the top of the ribbon, and then glue the letters in order to the front and back of the ribbon, leaving extra space between words.
5. Tie a bead or small spoon onto the ribbon bottom of the banner to add weight. It will hang vertically.
6. Let the banners lie flat to dry if you used glue. Otherwise find a spot to hang it☺

**Say, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar who had never met Jesus before, wasn’t afraid to call out for Jesus. How can we remember to call out for Jesus when we need Him? Use your banner to help remind you of that. We can call to Jesus and talk to Jesus!**

This came from:

Keffer, Lois. All Together Now, Volume 2-Winter. 2012 Group Publishing. Loveland, CO.

God Bless You All in this time. Enjoy this lesson as you attend Home Sunday School and Church. Go to the church website for a link to the worship service. Hope to see you soon!