

Blind Bartimaeus Tells His Story

BARTIMAEUS: Alms for the poor! Alms for the poor! Oh, uh, hello. Can you help me find the side of the road?

Encourage children to help Bartimaeus.

BARTIMAEUS: God bless you for your kindness to a poor beggar. I've heard that Jesus will be here soon and I want to meet him.

Encourage the crowd of kids to move around the child playing Jesus so he or she is obscured.

BARTIMAEUS: I know I'm just a beggar, but I'm determined to meet Jesus. I've heard he's healed many blind people. This is my chance to meet him! *(Bartimaeus wanders around, feeling for obstacles and bumping into the crowd.)*

Tell children to help you move Bartimaeus away from the main traffic so he's not crushed by the crowd.

BARTIMAEUS: Stop moving me! How am I going to meet Jesus if I'm way back here? I must meet Jesus! He can heal me! I'm going to meet Jesus no matter what it takes. *(Bartimaeus pushes back into the crowd of kids.)*

*Move Jesus through the crowd of kids toward Bartimaeus, and encourage kids to chant: Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!
Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!*

BARTIMAEUS: *(simultaneously as kids chant and loudly)* Jesus, Son of David! Have mercy on me!

Move Jesus close to Bartimaeus and encourage kids to continue chanting loudly: Hurray for Jesus! Hurray for Jesus! Hurray for Jesus! Hurray for Jesus!

BARTIMAEUS: *(simultaneously and even more loudly)* **Jesus, Son of David! Have mercy on me!**

TEACHER: *(to Bartimaeus)* **Why don't you stop being such a nuisance?! Hush!**

BARTIMAEUS: **Jesus, Son of David! Have mercy on me!**

Move Jesus to right in front of Bartimaeus.

BARTIMAEUS: **Jesus, Son of David! Have mercy on me!**

Stop kids from chanting and point out that Jesus has come face to face with Bartimaeus. Have kids change their chant to: Jesus wants to see you!

Signal silence for the entire group, and then have the child playing Jesus say: What do you want?

BARTIMAEUS: *(reaches out for Jesus)* **Beloved rabbi, I want to see!**

Encourage Jesus to say kindly: Your faith has made you well. Now go your way.

BARTIMAEUS: *(in shock)* **I can see! I can see! (Turns and looks all around.) I can see!**

Tell everyone to get back into a crowd to follow Jesus as he walks down the road and begins the journey again.

BARTIMAEUS: **I'm going to follow Jesus! (Runs to catch up with Jesus.)**