



from TORCH TRUST

Resources for children's groups on Sight Loss Sunday.

This resource is designed to give ideas for children's groups that want to follow the theme of Sight Loss Sunday.





Resources for children's groups on Sight Loss Sunday

This resource is designed to give ideas for children's groups that want to follow the theme of Sight Loss Sunday. The main reading for the children's groups is Mark 10:46-52. We have provided a mixture of activities aimed at different ages and hopefully adaptable for different size spaces and resources. Please choose activities best suited for your situation and age of children.





Opening activities

Odd Word out!

Aim- To begin to think about how we all have different gifts and they all come from God.

Which is the odd one out of the 4 words.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| • Arachnid | Spider | Tarantula | Ant |
| • Oak | Horse Chestnut | Rose | Tree |
| • Ferrari | Renault | Bike | Car |
| • Xylophone | Xbox | Playstation | Switch |
| • Apple | Orange | Walnut | Lemon |
| • Nursery | Primary | Momentary | Secondary |
| • Xfactor | Eastenders | The Voice | Britains Got Talent |
| • Dairy Milk | Custard Creams | Galaxy | Aero |
| • Chips | Nike | Adidas | Puma |
| • Macdonalds | Burger King | KFC | Tesco |

Use this game if you are teaching the memory verse 1 Corinthians 12:4. The three words that go together are different types of the same thing. The word in bold is the odd one out. Explain that there are different gifts from God but they all come from the same place. God gives each person different gifts.

Who am I?

Aim- To explore using our ears rather than our eyes and begin to think about people with sight loss.

Materials: A blindfold

- Have everyone recite the words, 'Who am I, Bartimaeus?'
- Arrange everyone in a circle on the floor.
- Call on one child and have him/her stand in the middle of the circle.





- Put the blindfold on them.
- Next, quietly point to one of the children sitting in the circle. Have them say the words, 'Who am I, Bartimaeus?'
- Ask the child with the blindfold on to try and point to the child speaking, but also identify who they think it is (without looking).
- Repeat the process until everyone has had a chance to participate.

Explain that when you are blind it's difficult to know exactly where people are when they are talking to you, and it can be hard to tell who it is that is talking to you.

What can I do?

Aim- To begin to think about people with sight loss.

Materials: A picture of a person or an action figure

Talk to the children about different parts of the body and what they can do. Take it in turns to ask each child what a different part of their bodies can do eg. hands can help me to put my socks on, or ears can help me to hear someone call my name etc. When everyone has had a go explain that sometimes different parts of our bodies don't work properly. Ask some questions to help the children explore disabilities eg. What would it be like if your ears didn't work properly? In today's story Jesus meets someone whose eyes don't work properly.

Building challenge

Aim- To begin to understand sight loss and try to complete a challenge without using sight.

Materials: Lego or plasticine, and blindfolds

Make sure everyone is sitting down and give each child a blindfold and a small pile of Lego or some plasticine. Put the blindfolds on and encourage everyone to build something with their Lego or mould something with their plasticine. When everyone has had a go take blindfolds off and talk about how they found it. Explain that today is Sight Loss Sunday and we are going to be thinking more about people with sight loss.





Bible Story

Act out the story.

Read the story to the children (Mark 10:46-52, adapted below). Talk about the different people and their part. Encourage the children to each take a part in the story and retell it encouraging everyone to act out and speak their lines.

Jesus and his disciples were in Jericho. It was dusty and noisy and there were crowds of people everywhere all trying to get close to Jesus. [children could jostle around Jesus and all try to get to the front]

By the side of the road in the dust and the dirt sat Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus' eyes didn't work properly and he couldn't see. So, every day he sat by the side of the road and asked people if they could give him a little money. [Bartimaeus sits and calls out asking for money]

Bartimaeus had heard all about Jesus, he'd heard about the amazing things Jesus could do, and the incredible things that Jesus said and he knew that Jesus was a very special person. When he heard the crowd all excitedly talking and found out that Jesus was walking by he started to shout really loudly.

'Jesus, Jesus!' [Bartimaeus shouts out over everyone else making lots of noise]

All the people started to tell Bartimaeus off.

'Shush' 'Be quiet' they said. [The crowd of children can shush and grumble at Bartimaeus]

But Bartimaeus shouted even louder

'Jesus, Jesus!' [Bartimaeus shouts even louder]

Jesus stopped. And he listened. And he heard Bartimaeus shouting. He asked the people to call Bartimaeus over. The crowd was excited. They called to Bartimaeus

'Cheer up! Get up! Jesus is calling you.'

Bartimaeus jumped to his feet and came towards Jesus. [Bartimaeus jumps up and walks towards Jesus]





Jesus looked at Bartimaeus and said

'What do you want me to do for you?'

Bartimaeus said

'I want to see.'

'Go, you've been healed, Bartimaeus' said Jesus

Immediately Bartimaeus could see and he started following Jesus along the road. [Bartimaeus excitedly follows Jesus around the room]

Read the Bible

Materials: Bibles, large print copy of the text (downloadable at sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk/SLSunday), Braille copy of the text (available from Torch Trust), Audio recording (visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjOgcMQXvSc> to listen to David Suchet reading the whole of Mark's Gospel at St Paul's Cathedral).

Help the children to find Mark 10:46-52. Read the story together. Talk about the story using these questions to help your discussion.

- How do you think Bartimaeus felt trying to make himself heard over all the people?
- What does Jesus ask Bartimaeus? Why do you think he asked that?
- How do you think Bartimaeus felt when Jesus healed him?

Ask the children how they might read this story if they couldn't see their Bible. Talk about how people with sight loss read their Bible and show the different Bible versions. Listen to the audio recording (the Bartimaeus story starts at 1 hour 20 minutes 17 seconds). If you have invited someone with sight loss to talk to the children invite them to talk about how they read the Bible.





Memory Verse

Materials: Write or print out each word of the memory verse on a separate sheet of paper.

1 Corinthians 12:4 (NIV)

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.

Place the pieces of paper around the room so they can be easily seen, in no particular order. Ask the children to bring the first word to whoever is leading. If they bring the wrong word get them to return it and try again, until the right word is picked. Continue until the verse is complete. Say the verse altogether. On Sight Loss Sunday we want to be reminded that everyone has gifts from God that they can use. People with sight loss also have gifts from God and it's great that we can all use our gifts.





Application

What is it like to have sight loss?

Invite someone with sight loss to join the children for their group. Make sure they feel comfortable talking to the children and answering their questions. Encourage them to talk about their sight loss and their Christian faith. Encourage the children to ask questions.

'What do you want me to do for you?'

Remind the children of the question that Jesus asked Bartimaeus. Ask the children to imagine what it would be like if Jesus didn't ask that question. Explain that it is really important to ask how you can help someone, or what they would like you to do, rather than just doing what you think is best. Encourage the children to act out 2 different situations using the situation cards below-

- Person A is standing by the side of the road carrying their bag. Person B takes the bag off them and helps them across the road. Person B ignores any protests from Person A.
- Person A is standing by the side of the road carrying their bag. Person B asks if they need any help. Person A says 'No thanks, I'm just waiting for my taxi.' The two chat until the taxi arrives.

How would Person A feel in each situation? Invite the children to think about who they could ask 'What do you want me to do for you?' in your church.





Prayer and Craft

Pipe cleaner people

Materials: pipe cleaners, beads of different sizes, colourful straws (or white paper ones that can be coloured in with felt tip pens)

Pipe cleaner people can be made very simply with 2 pipe cleaners or more elaborately with beads and straws. There are lots of helpful instruction videos on YouTube to show you how it's done. Choose your preferred method and show the children stage by stage what to do. Give everyone enough materials to make at least 2 people. The children can use their people to re-enact the story and enact different scenarios of people using their different gifts to help others. As they make and use them in different ways recap the story and the different things you have discussed today.

Praying for others

If you have invited someone with sight loss to talk to the children today ask them if they would like you and the children to pray for them. Ask them what they would like prayer for. Encourage the children to pray for your visitor as well as praying yourself.

Further prayer ideas

For further interactive prayer ideas please see the 'Interactive Prayers' document available at sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk/SLSunday





Songs

I have decided to follow Jesus

Great Big God (Our God is a Great Big God)

Every Move I Make (You Make Me Move Jesus)

Produced by Torch Trust
Torch House, Torch Way
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 9HL UK

t: 01858 438260

e: info@torchtrust.org

w: torchtrust.org

Reg. Charity no. 1095904

