

Read Mark 10.46-52

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Do you know anyone who is blind or has failing eyesight? Can you imagine what it is like to be blind? Imagine not being able to see the faces of your family or friends, or not being able to see colours, or wonderful landscapes. Think of all the things that you can do easily because you can see – reading, playing sports, baking, going for a walk without help. Blind people often do these things as well but they have to learn new ways of doing them.

Bartimaeus was a blind man who had to live by begging because he could not work. He was sitting by the roadside and heard the crowd of people going past with Jesus. The crowd didn't notice Bartimaeus; he was considered an unimportant person. But Bartimaeus had great faith in God and called out to Jesus to help him. Jesus recognised his faith and healed him. Bartimaeus then followed Jesus, praising God and giving thanks for this miracle.



We sometimes say that people can't see clearly when they can't understand something. Have you ever experienced something that you did not see clearly or did not understand? Bartimaeus couldn't see things physically but he could see other things. He "saw" that Jesus was the Son of God, and he saw the hope of healing in Jesus. Jesus noticed Bartimaeus and saw something special in him – he saw the faith that Bartimaeus had.

The crowd didn't notice Bartimaeus; they didn't really see him. Have there been times when you have felt unnoticed? Or when other people didn't seem to understand you? How did this make you feel?

Remember that God sees and understands each one of us.

Does your faith in God help you to see things or people differently?

Activity

- Use your phone or a camera to take photos of everyday objects from unusual angles. Test your friends and family to see if they can identify the object.



Here's one idea to start you off.

Sometimes it's good to look at an idea or an object from a different perspective. Can you think of a time when faith has helped you to see things differently?

Prayer

Living Lord, like Bartimaeus we praise you with joyful hearts.
Thank you for the gift of sight to enjoy the wonders of creation,
for hearts to feel your healing love,
and for voices to share your love with others. Amen.