

## YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!

**Bible Story:** Jesus Heals the Blind Man • *John 9*

**Bottom Line:** God made you to trust Him.

**Memory Verse:** "Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven." *Matthew 5:16 NIV*

### GET READY

Prepare ahead of time for 2nd–3rd grade small groups:

**Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect** (CHOOSE AS MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES AS YOU LIKE.)

*\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.*

#### 1. SEE WHAT I'M SAYING? (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

- Print the "See What I'm Saying?" Activity Page; 1 for each small group
- Hand sanitizer or wet wipes
- Small tub of water
- Put 10 pennies and 1 dime in a sandwich bag for every 3-4 kids.
- Place 3 pairs of socks in a basket or bag for every 3-4 kids.

#### 2. TRUST IT OR DUMP IT (*application activity*)

- Uncooked spaghetti (regular, not thin); 1 box for every 10 kids
- Miniature marshmallows; 1 bag for every 10 kids
- Bath towels; 1 for every 2-3 kids
- 3-5 small paper cups
- Water

#### 3. BLIND MAN'S GUESS (*memory verse activity*)

- Bibles

### PRAYER

- Blueprints from yesterday (and extras for new kids)
- Pens or pencils

### TRAVEL TIME

- No supplies

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## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect** (SMALL GROUPS, 25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

\*1. *See What I'm Saying?* (application activity / review the Bible story)



**What You Need:** "See What I'm Saying?" Activity Page, hand sanitizer or wet wipes, tub of water, baskets or bags of socks, prepared coin bags



### **What You Do:**

- Form teams of three or four kids.
- Have everyone use hand sanitizer or wet wipes on their hands.
- Tell the kids they'll be reviewing today's Bible story by taking turns closing their eyes and pretending to be the blind man Jesus healed.
- Follow the instructions found on the "See What I'm Saying" Activity Page.
- When finished with the story, lead a discussion by asking kids to share how it felt to not be able to see.
  - » How was doing things with their eyes closed like and unlike the blind man in the story?
  - » Why would it have been easy or hard for the blind man to trust Jesus?
  - » What did they learn about Jesus from this true story?



### **What You Say:**

"The man in our Bible story had always been blind—as a baby, as a little boy, and as a grown man. Over the years he would have needed to trust a lot of people to help him do everyday stuff. He probably learned who he could trust and who he couldn't. When he met Jesus, even though he couldn't see Him with his eyes, he knew he could trust Him. That's why he did what Jesus asked him to do. Sadly, not everyone in today's Bible story trusted Jesus. The Pharisees didn't trust in Jesus even though they heard Him teach and saw the amazing miracles He performed. They didn't believe the truth about Him. Their eyes weren't blind, but their hearts were. They couldn't see that Jesus was God's Son. Isn't it amazing how a blind guy could see right away who Jesus was, but the Pharisees—the men who spent all their time trying to follow all the rules of the Old Testament—couldn't? That still happens today. Trusting God is always a choice, and sometimes people choose to not believe. Remember, **[Bottom Line] God made you to trust Him.** Even though you can't see God with your eyes, you can trust Him in your heart and follow Him with your life."

**[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about something you're currently trusting God to do for you or someone you know. Read a favorite Bible verse that you think about whenever you need help to trust God for the situation you shared.)**

## 2. Trust It or Dump It (application activity)



**What You Need:** Towels, spaghetti, marshmallows, paper cups, water



**What You Do:**

- Form teams of two or three kids.
- Place a folded bath towel on the floor for each team.
- Give each team an equal amount of marshmallows and spaghetti.
- Challenge teams to use the spaghetti and marshmallows to build a platform on top of the towel that is strong enough to hold a cup of water for at least five seconds. Tell them that the platform that's the tallest and still holds the cup of water will be the winner.
- Give teams at least five minutes to build their platforms.
- When time is up, let teams take turns testing their contraptions using cups containing an equal amount of water.



**What You Say:**

"You made some great spaghetti and marshmallow platforms! Turns out that some of them were more trustworthy than others when it came time to hold up a cup of water. If you had to cross a raging river, would you trust a bridge made of spaghetti and marshmallows or one made of steel and concrete? *(Pause as kids answer.)* I'd definitely trust the one that was the strongest. Unlike stuff made of spaghetti and marshmallows, we can trust God with every part of life—big and small. He's always strong. Nothing makes Him weak. Nothing makes Him break or quit. He won't fall apart when we bring our problems to Him. He won't collapse when we pray for hard things. **Bottom Line] "God made you to trust Him** and He is able to be trusted. He will pass the test every time and never fail us. God has a plan for your life, just like He had a plan for the blind man. Like him, you're being invited to follow Jesus every day—to trust Him even when life is difficult and confusing. There's an epic adventure out there with your name written on it and no one else can live it but you. It's all part of following God and trusting Him even in all the ups and downs of life."

## 3. Blind Man's Guess (memory verse activity)



**What You Need:** Bible



**What You Do:**

- Review Matthew 5:16 by having kids read it in their Bibles.
- Say the verse together. Then choose someone to turn away from the group and close his or her eyes.
- Explain that you will point to another kid who will then say the memory verse aloud using a disguised voice such as high or low pitch, an accent, or a silly cartoon voice.
- The kid whose eyes are closed should try to guess who's speaking.

- If you have a large group, consider having several kids say the verse together but without disguising their voices. The person whose eyes are closed must guess all of the kids who are speaking.
- Discuss the verse by asking the kids to name some “good things” they can do that help others see Jesus and that glorify God.



### What You Say:

“Great job guessing the voices of your friends! Isn’t it interesting the way God gave each of us a different voice? It’s part of who we are. Even when they disguised their voice, you could still recognize kids you knew. I hope playing ‘Blind Man’s Guess’ helped you learn our memory verse. We’ll keep working on it again tomorrow. In the meantime, put the words of Matthew 5:16 into action. Use your voice to shine for Jesus by choosing to show your love for God in the things you think, say, and do. Your words, as well as your actions, can reflect God’s love. Remember, **[Bottom Line] God made you to trust Him.** When you do, you will shine for Jesus and others will see Him in you.”

### Pray and Dismiss



**What You Need:** Blueprints, pens or pencils



### What You Do:

- Hand out blueprints from yesterday. Provide additional blueprints for new kids.
- Remind kids of the blind man in today’s Bible story and how difficult his life must have been before Jesus healed him.
- Ask kids to close their eyes and keep them closed for the duration of this prayer activity.
- Give verbal directions to help your “blind” kids find today’s page. Instruct them to write their name in the middle of the page (with eyes still closed).
- When finished writing, have everyone continue to keep their eyes closed as they think of a situation in their life where they need to trust God.
- Say today’s Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line] God made you to trust Him.**
- Pray together by inviting your group to silently finish this prayer, “Dear God, I need Your help to trust You when . . .”
- Tell the kids they can open their eyes after you finish with the prayer below.



### What You Say:

“Thank You, God, that we can always trust You. You know everything that happens to us, and You know how things will work out even when we don’t. Help us to remember that we don’t have to SEE You with our eyes to know how amazing You are. Thank You for giving us stories like the one about the blind man You healed. Help us to trust You the way he did. Thank You for being in our lives and showing us Your love and power in so many amazing ways. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Make sure kids have written their names on their blueprints. Then collect them to use again tomorrow.

**Travel Time** *(use these questions to continue conversation while walking to the next activity track)*

- What do you think the blind man would have wanted to see the most when he first got healed?
- What would be the hardest part about being blind?
- When is it hard for kids your age to trust God?