

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 each Small Group doing the 5/6 Challenge:

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

BLINDFOLD JENGA

- Jenga games
- *Optional:* Blindfolds (bandanas work well) or they can just close their eyes

NOTE: You can also buy or make oversize Jenga blocks, which work well with this game.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

1. GET IN CHARACTER

- Activity Page Character Cards - cut so that everyone in your group has one
- *Optional:* nametags or big labels and markers to show which character they are playing

2. THIS MARCH IS TRUE

- A whiteboard/chart paper
- Markers
- Scrap paper for everyone
- Pens
- 1 flashlight (with working batteries)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Blindfold Jenga



What You Need: Jenga games; Optional: Blindfolds (bandanas work well) or they can just close their eyes

NOTE: You can also buy or make oversize Jenga blocks which work well with this game.



What You Do:

- As students arrive, tell them to gather with a few others to play Jenga.
- If you have multiple Jenga games, they can spread out so multiple games are going at once.
- If you have just one Jenga game, you can have students take turns playing in the middle of the space, while others watch and cheer for them.
- First they stack and create the tower, using all the pieces. See box for more details.
- Next they spread out in a circle around the tower so everyone has their own spot.
- Finally, they are blindfolded or close their eyes and take turns trying to remove 1 block without knocking the whole thing over.
- Decide if they are going clockwise or counter-clockwise so they know when it's their turn. It also helps if they say their own name and "done" after their turn is over so the next person knows it's OK for them to go (since they can't see).
- When the tower collapses, encourage them to let others who haven't had a turn yet play.



What You Say:

Jenga is a tough game even when you can see! Today's Bible Story is about a guy who was born blind. That led him to a life of begging on the streets until Jesus came along and performed a miracle. But not everyone was happy about this.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Get in Character (Bible Story Review)



What You Need: Activity Page Character Cards, cut so that everyone in your group has one; optional: nametags or big labels and markers to write their names and put on everyone as they walk around, age-appropriate Bible for reference



What You Do:

- Pass one character card to each person (boys can play girls and vice versa)
- Note: It's important to make sure that you have 1 Jesus, 1 Blind Man, at least 1 Blind Man parent, 1 Disciple, 1 Pharisee and 1 Neighbor so that the entire story is represented. Depending on how many people you expect there are more disciple, Pharisee and neighbor cards to print.
- Tell them they are going to play the person on the card they've been given. They should quietly read what's written and ask you about anything they don't understand before you get started.
- Optional: They can write their character's name on a nametag/label so others know who they are. Or they can just tell them as they walk around and interact with others.
- Instruct them to walk around and talk with other characters. The card tells them who they consider a friend, who is more of an enemy and even gives them things to talk about with people.
- Walk around and listen in to the conversations the students are having.
- Remind them to stay in character and only give answers they think their character would give. If they aren't sure about something, they can come and ask you. You can reread John 9 in the Bible if needed.
- Challenge them to talk with all the different characters from the story and listen in as different groups interact with each other.



What You Say:

How did it feel to get into this story? Into your character's head? What was fun about it? What was hard about it? (*Take responses.*) The story of this Blind Man is nothing short of miraculous! But that doesn't mean that everyone was happy about it or that they even believed it was true. We might not see a miracle like this, but we can still choose to believe that Jesus is who He said - the Son of God. He came to change everything. And we can believe, even when it's hard, because **God made us to trust Him.**

This Much Is True (Bible Story and Memory Verse Review)



What You Need: A whiteboard/chart paper with markers, scrap paper for everyone, pens, 1 flashlight



What You Do:

- Write in big letters on the whiteboard or chart paper with markers, "I don't know everything, but I do know this 1 thing about Jesus is true..."
- Pass out scrap paper and pens.
- Encourage them to copy this sentence starter onto their paper and then to finish the thought.
- Give them a minute or two, until almost everyone is done.
- Have everyone sit in a circle, knees or elbows touching if possible.
- Tell them you're going to turn out the lights and pass the flashlight around.
- They can use the flashlight to read out loud what they wrote. If they don't want to read theirs out loud, please don't force them. They can pass the flashlight on without saying anything or give their paper to you or someone else to read for them.



What You Say:

Like the Blind Man in today's Bible Story, we don't know everything about Jesus or God or faith. But we know enough. **Our memory verse from Matthew 5:16 encourages us to, "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."** That's what the Blind Man, now healed, did too. Even if it meant making some people mad, he gave Jesus the credit for healing him. He knew his life was changed forever.

And when he saw Jesus again, the Seeing Man wanted Jesus to tell him more. He was ready to believe that Jesus was the Son of God, come to save the world. The one they had been hoping and waiting for.

How about you? If you want to know more about believing Jesus and starting a forever relationship with Him today, I'd love to talk you. **God made us to trust Him.**