

## 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 kindergarten–1st grade Small Groups this week:

**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 #3.

#### 1. I SEE! (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

- Print the "I See!" Activity Pages on cardstock and cut apart; 1 set for every 3 kids
- Pool noodles; approximately 1 for each kid
- Sturdy tape or hook and loop tape
- Blindfolds; 1 for every 3 kids

#### 2. SHINE! (*memory verse activity*)

- Bible marked at Matthew 5
- LED balloon (available online, at dollar stores, big box stores, or party stores);  
OR a light-colored balloon
- Jump ropes or ropes
- Black light (*optional*)

#### 3. MADE TO TRUST (*application activity*)

- Long sheet of black art paper; OR multiple pieces of black construction paper or poster board taped together
- Use a light-colored chalk pen, paint pen, white or silver Sharpie®, or similar to print "God made you to trust Him" in large letters in the center of the black paper.
- Oil pastels or light-colored crayons
- Black light (*optional*)

### PRAYER

- 2 12-16 oz. clear containers
- Iodine

- Bleach
  - » Half fill one container with a solution of 4 parts water and 1 part iodine
  - » Half fill the second container with a solution that's 9 parts water and 1 part bleach
- Blueprints from yesterday (and extras for new kids)
- Print and cut apart the "Braille Code Cards" Activity Page; 1 card for each kid
- Colored pencils
- Tape; OR fun, gadgety-type stickers

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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. *I See!* (application activity / review the Bible story)



**What You Need:** "I See!" (Activity Pages), pool noodles, tape, blindfolds



#### **What You Do:**

- For every six kids, lay a set of pool noodles on the floor end to end. Ideally, each set should be about six feet apart. (For older kids, you can place the noodles at angles to each other.)  
» *NOTE: For safety, tape the ends of the noodles securely to the floor.*
- Guide kids to get into teams of about six and lead each team to stand at one end of a noodle path. Place a set of "I See!" cards at the other end.
- Guide each team member to choose a partner.
- Blindfold one member of the first pair on each team. Be sure the kids can't peek!
- Lead the non-blindfolded kids to stand beside their blindfolded teammates and hold their hands.
- At your signal, each sighted kid helps their blindfolded partner walk the noodle "balance beam," retrieve an "I See!" card, and walk back to their team.
- Kids take turns either walking the "balance beam" or assisting teammates until their team collects every card.
- Guide teams to work together to assemble the puzzle.



#### **What You Say:**

"When you walked the balance beam blindfolded, you had to trust your teammates, didn't you? You had to trust that they would help you get where you needed to go.

"Who does your puzzle show? (*Pause for response.*) How did the man who was blind trust Jesus? (*Pause.*) Yes! He trusted that Jesus would heal him. He also trusted that Jesus was God's Son, the Savior.

**[Bottom Line]** "God made you to trust Him, too. How can YOU trust Jesus? (*I can trust Him to take care of me; I can trust Him to help me; I can trust Him to be my Savior.*) Jesus wanted the blind man to see, but even more, he wanted the man to know who He was: the Son of God. Jesus also wanted the blind man to believe in Him and to trust Him to be his Savior. Jesus loves you and He wants YOU to trust Him, too. So remember: **[Bottom Line] God made you to trust Him!**"

## 2. Shine! (memory verse activity)



**What You Need:** Bible, LED balloon or light-colored balloon, jump ropes, black light (optional)



**What You Do:**

- Lay the jump ropes in a cross pattern, marking your area into quadrants.
- Divide your group into four equal(ish) teams. Guide each team to stand in a quadrant.
- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible where marked. Read aloud the first portion of Matthew 5:16. (*Let your light shine so others can see it.*) Encourage the kids to tell in their own words what that means.
- Toss the balloon into the center of playing area. Guide the kids to play "keep it up" with two rules: one person may not touch the balloon twice in a row, and they may not leave their quadrant.
- Each time a child "bops" the balloon, say a word of the verse. If the balloon hits the floor, start play from the beginning.
- End the game when interest is high. If the kids are really mastering the game, challenge them to keep the balloon up long enough for you to repeat the verse three or four times!



**What You Say:**

"Great job! Does letting our light shine so others can see it mean that we all have light bulbs inside us? No! What do you think it does mean to let our light shine? (Pause.) Yes! God wants you to show His love to others.

"What are some ways you can show others God's love? (*Help them when they need help; share; tell them about Jesus; be kind; etc.*) **[Make It Personal] (Share a way you'll let your light shine to show others God's love.)** So remember: *Let your light shine so others can see it!*"

## \*3. Made to Trust (application activity)



**What You Need:** Black paper, oil pastels or crayons, black light (optional)



**What You Do:**

- Set out the mural and lead kids to gather around it. Guide them to read the Bottom Line with you as you point to each word.
- Ask: "When are times you can trust God? (*I can trust him when I'm afraid of the dark; I can trust Him when I'm scared; I can trust Him when I'm sad; etc.*) What are some ways you can show your trust in God?" (*I can pray; I can sing to Him; I can do what He says; etc.*)

- Set out the markers or crayons and guide each kid to draw a time or a way they will trust God.  
**[Make It Personal] Draw a time or way you will trust God, too.**



### What You Say:

“Great work, guys! Can you trust God no matter what? Yes, you can. You can trust God no matter what because He loves You and He cares for you! So remember: **[Bottom Line] God made you to trust Him.**”

*Pray and Dismiss*



**What You Need:** Prepared containers of iodine and bleach mixtures, blueprints, “Braille Code Cards” (Activity Page), colored pencils, tape or fun stickers, Bible



### What You Do:

- Invite kids to gather around you, yet stay a safe distance away.
- Set the iodine container in front of you and briefly review the Bible story. Turn the Bible to John 9 and use the passage if necessary.
- Narrate the story to the point where the man went to wash in the Pool of Siloam.
- When you describe the man washing in the pool, add the bleach mixture to the iodine. Be prepared for exclamations of “Ooh!” “Whoa!” “Cool!” and “No way!”
- Invite kids to share what the man did after Jesus found him. (*He trusted Jesus.*)



### What You Say:

“Just like the man who was born blind, **[Bottom Line] God made you to trust Him.** When are times that you can trust Jesus? (*Pause.*) How can you trust Jesus? (*I can pray; I can remember that He loves me; I can believe that He is God’s Son and my Savior.*) So remember: **[Bottom Line] God made you to trust Him.**”



### What You Do:

- Lead kids in prayer. Thank God that you can trust Him no matter what and ask Him to help both you and the kids trust Him more.
- Give every kid a blueprint and a “Braille Code Card.”
- Explain how to solve the code and then hand out colored pencils.
- Providing help as needed, give kids a few minutes to fill in the blanks on their Braille card.
- Then guide kids to open the blueprints to the Day 2 page and attach their cards using stickers or tape.
- Read the message with the kids.

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

- God made you to \_\_\_\_\_ (*trust Him*).
- Who can you trust no matter what? (*God!*)
- Encourage kids to ask their parents about times when they have trusted God.