

Sunday Gospel Background

Unlike the disciples who know Jesus face-to-face, the blind man Bartimaeus has to make up his mind about who Jesus is without the benefit of seeing him. In this way, Bartimaeus represents all Christians who believe in Jesus on the basis of what they have been told about him. For us, as for Bartimaeus, faith makes us whole. Faith is both a gift of God and a human response, a relationship by which one trusts and adheres to God and the content of God's revelation, which one believes.

Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** Think of something extraordinary you have seen lately and ask your child to do the same. Lead your child in a prayer of gratitude: "God of vision, you present yourself in wonderful ways, like _____. (Name these extraordinary sightings.) Help us see your wonders every day. Amen."
- Cover Activity • What Do You See? (page 1)** *Venture* challenges your child to see people and things from a fresh point of view. Read aloud the cover direction. Encourage your child to compare the photos and find as many differences as possible. (There are fifteen).

Answers: From left: first boy loses a hoodie string; next boy has different colored shirt; bird in sky disappears; boy fourth from left loses buttons; girl in middle gets an earring and rivets on her pocket; next girl has a second bracelet and loses shirt details; third girl gets nail polish and loses the brand and zipper pull on her hoodie; girl and dog appear in background; girl on far right gets a necklace, new pants color, and a hair trim.

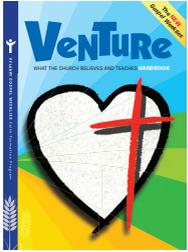
- Story • Not Like Amber (pages 2–3)** In this week's story, Lily thinks that Amber has a better life than she does. She misses all the signs that would tell her that Amber is struggling. Read the story aloud or let your child read it independently.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 3.** *Answers: 1. Lily thinks that Amber is lucky. Lily views her parents as too strict. She also wants her own room. 2. Lily notices that Amber's car is full of stuff, including sleeping bags. However, she doesn't realize that Amber and her mom are homeless until they share that they've lost their apartment. 3-4. Open-ended. 5. Open-ended; the best thing Lily can do is continue to be a friend to Amber.*

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Cures the Blind Man (page 4)** Proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reading parts with your child: Narrator, Bartimaeus, and Jesus. If you like, add actions and movement.
- Discuss the Think questions on page 4.** *Answers: 1. People may have looked down on Bartimaeus, thinking his blindness was a punishment for sin, or taking advantage of his vulnerability. They view him as unworthy of approaching a holy man like Jesus. 2. Bartimaeus calls Jesus "Son of David," a title showing he sees/believes Jesus to be the kingly Messiah; he probably has heard stories about Jesus and made an assessment of him. 3. Jesus sees in Bartimaeus a person who believes in him, whose faith heals him. 4. He shows great faith by jumping up and coming to Jesus; he follows Jesus up the road and he becomes a disciple. The beggar's cloak was for catching coins. It was his way to make a living. Bartimaeus leaves his cloak behind to follow Jesus, just as Simon Peter left his fishing boat and the Samaritan woman her water jar.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine • Faith Is a Free Choice (page 4)** Read aloud this summary of Sunday's Gospel theme.



- Discuss the **Think questions on page 4**. **Answers:** 1. Open-ended; suggest use of other senses, especially hearing. 2. Open-ended; suggest that use of empathy—or putting one's self in another's place—can change the way we view someone or something.
- **Catholic Faith Word • Miracle (page 4)** The Gospel story of the blind man is an example of Jesus' healing miracles. Read aloud the definition. Take turns sharing other miracles of Jesus that you can think of.



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 6. Read the first paragraph aloud. Ask for your child's reactions to the following passages:

- **"People are religious by nature."** Religious in this sense means being aware of the great mysteries of life—birth, death, suffering, delight, ideas, beauty. Trying to understand and respect these mysteries is a religious act.
- **"...wanting a good relationship with God..."** When we understand that the source of all beauty and all mystery is God, we want to be in relationship with God. God is all we can imagine of beauty and life, and much more.

Read the second paragraph. Explain that Bartimaeus heard enough about Jesus to know that he was sent by God. Bartimaeus' act of faith in Jesus was an act of faith in God. Jesus is God, the second Divine Person of the Trinity, who also brings us to God.

After reading the final paragraph, **ask:** how do you see God's beauty? Is it in nature? Somewhere else? How do you hear God's voice? *Possibilities include prayer and meditation, or listening to inspirational, uplifting music.*

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Venture page 5.

- **Our Catholic Faith • Sacraments Continue Jesus' Words and Actions (page 5)** Read aloud the paragraphs together and work with your child to complete the responses from memory. You might prompt your child with the first few words of the responses. **Answers:** *And with your spirit; We lift them up to the Lord; We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again (A), or When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again (B), or Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free (C); Thanks be to God.* **Note:** *there may be some local variations in Mass responses.*

Live the Gospel

- **Living the Gospel • Follow and Listen: A Trust Challenge (pages 7–8)** This activity helps children realize what is involved in following another person and listening carefully. Have your child cut out the cards and do the activities. Work as your child's partner. Make sure to spend some time on the discussion questions.
- **Closing Prayer • A to Z Prayer Service (page 6)** It's perfectly fine if your child can't think of something for each letter. This is a family activity, so feel free to invite other family members to help. Once everyone has added something, pray the prayer together.



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.