

Put Yourself In The Story

Week 1: Blind Bartimaeus - Mark 10: 46 - 56

Begin (1 min): Take time to remember God's presence with you and his love for you. Pray that the Holy Spirit will open the bible to you in life changing ways today. *(This could be a good transition from a time of Worship to Word.)*

Share (1-2 mins): In one word, share what grace ("unmerited favour of God") would you love to receive from God today as you look into his Word? (eg. hope, comfort, joy, peace, focus, revelation...)

Hand out copies of the Bible passage (Mark 10: 46 -56) on the next page so everyone is working off the same version. Ignore the instructions at the bottom of that page at this point.

Read & Review (4 mins): Have one person read the whole story aloud to the group. Don't rush, give people time to focus on what is happening in the story. Ask one person to summarise the story in his or her own words.

Put Yourself In The Story (10 mins): Everyone will now take 10 minutes on their own to read through the story again. The idea is to really immerse your self personally in the text. These guidelines are also at the bottom of the bible passage handout. (Read out the guidelines)

As you read the story for yourself:

- Use your imagination and place yourself in the story. Ground your imaginings in the text, but try and take it from words on a page to an awareness of it being a real life situation.
- Put yourself in the place of one of the characters, major or minor (eg. Jesus, Bartimaeus, a disciple, one of the crowd).

Look around the story from the perspective of that character.

- What is happening around you? Where are you?
- What does the place, feel, sound, look, smell like. Try to really imagine it.
- How does your character interact with Jesus?
- Why are the other people here? What are they doing, how do they interact with Jesus? What do those things tell us about them?

Notice what is going on inside you (the real you) as you engage with this text.

- How are you feeling emotionally?
- What is God directing your attention to?
- Have a conversation with Jesus about these things.

Respond (10 mins): Come back together and share

- Whose perspective did you take? What struck you about them and how they responded to what was going on?
- What did you learn about Jesus? What did you learn about yourself?
- What do you think God wants you to take away from this story today?

Pray (10 mins): Pray for the application of what you've learned and heard from God today. This might be in the form of general prayer, but even better if it is as strategic, personalised ministry prayer for one another. (It may be better to do that in pairs or small groups.)

Mark 10:46-52

New International Version (NIV)

Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

As you read the story for yourself:

- Use your imagination and place yourself in the story. Ground your imaginings in the text, but try and take it from words on a page to an awareness of it being a real life situation.
- Put yourself in the place of one of the characters, major or minor (eg. Jesus, Bartimaeus, a disciple, one of the crowd).

Look around the story from the perspective of that character.

- What is happening around you? Where are you?
- What does the place, feel, sound, look, smell like. Try to really imagine it.
- How does your character interact with Jesus?
- Why are the other people here? What are they doing, how do they interact with Jesus? What do those things tell us about them?

Notice what is going on inside you (the real you) as you engage with this text.

- How are you feeling emotionally?
- What is God directing your attention to?
- Have a conversation with Jesus about these things.

Put Yourself In The Story

Week 2: Jesus Calms the Storm (Luke 8:22 – 25)

Begin (1 min) Welcome the peace of God among you and pray that the Holy Spirit will open the bible to you in life changing ways today.

Share (1-2 mins): Ask everyone to share the name of one person they would like to see experience the peace of the presence of Jesus in their current circumstances. (Just their name, not an explanation of why they need peace.) Have someone pray an introductory sentence (eg. “Lord, we ask for the peace of God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to be a reality in the lives of these people we name”) and then each person say the name of their person. Finish the prayer in unity with “Amen”.

Hand out copies of the Bible passage (Luke 8:22 -25) on the next page so everyone is working off the same version.

Read & Review (4 mins): Have one person read the whole story aloud to the group. Don’t rush, give people time to focus on what is happening in the story. Ask one person to summarise the story in his or her own words.

Put Yourself In The Story (10 mins): Everyone will now take 10 minutes on their own to read through the story again. The idea is to really immerse your self personally in the text. These guidelines are also at the bottom of the bible passage handout. (Read out the guidelines)

As you read the story for yourself:

- Use your imagination and place yourself in the story as one of the disciples on board. Ground your imaginings in the text, but try and take it from words on a page to an awareness of it being a real life situation.

Experience the story from the perspective of the disciples.

- What is happening around you?
- What does it feel, sound, look, smell like? Try to really imagine it.
- How are you feeling? Why are you awake while Jesus is asleep?
- What’s your attitude to Jesus?
- Do you think others are reacting the same way as you? What different things might they be thinking and feeling?

Notice what is going on inside you (the real you) as you engage with this text.

- How are you feeling emotionally?
- What is God directing your attention to?
- Have a conversation with Jesus about these things.

Respond (10 mins): Come back together and share

- What stood out for you as you got into this story?
- What did you learn about Jesus? What did you learn about yourself?
- What do you think God wants you to take away from this story today?

Pray (10 mins): Pray for the application of what you’ve learned and heard from God today. This might be in the form of general prayer, but even better if it is as strategic, personalised ministry prayer for one another. (It may be better to do that in pairs or small groups.)

Luke 8: 22-25

New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Calms the Storm

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

As you read the story for yourself:

- Use your imagination and place yourself in the story as one of the disciples on board. Ground your imaginings in the text, but try and take it from words on a page to an awareness of it being a real life situation.

Experience the story from the perspective of the disciples.

- What is happening around you?
- What does it feel, sound, look, smell like? Try to really imagine it.
- How are you feeling? Why are you awake while Jesus is asleep?
- What's your attitude to Jesus?
- Do you think others are reacting the same way as you? What different things might they be thinking and feeling?

Notice what is going on inside you (the real you) as you engage with this text.

- How are you feeling emotionally?
- What is God directing your attention to?
- Have a conversation with Jesus about these things.

Put Yourself In The Story

Week 3: Who is the Greatest? (Mark 9: 33 - 37)

Begin (1 min): Welcome the power of God among you and pray that the Holy Spirit will open the bible to you in life changing ways today.

Share (2 min): Talk about the context of the passage we are going to look at today: While Jesus, Peter, James and John had been off elsewhere, the disciples had tried to cast an evil spirit out of a boy, but they could not. When Jesus meets up with them he casts the evil spirit out on the spot. Jesus gets cross with “them” (which could be the crowd, the disciples or the father, or all of them), about their lack of faith. But soon after he tells the disciples that kind of spirit can only come out with prayer, or prayer & fasting. That’s another story for another time. For now, let’s just tap into how the disciples might be feeling at this point. What words spring to mind to describe some of those feelings?

They then leave that place, and head through Galilee. Jesus gets a bit mysterious and talks about the Son of Man being killed (v30 -31). The disciples “did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him” (v.32). In light of that, do you have any extra words to add to the list of how the disciples might be feeling at this point? Keep this background in mind as we now look at what happens next in today’s passage.

Hand out copies of the Bible passage (Mark 9:33 - 37) on the next page so everyone is working off the same version. Ignore the instructions at the bottom of that page at this point.

Read & Review (4 mins): Have one person read the whole story aloud to the group. Don’t rush, give people time to focus on what is happening in the story. Ask someone else to summarise what happens in the story in his or her own words.

Put yourself in the story (10 mins): Everyone will now take 10 minutes on their own to read through the story again. The idea is to really immerse your self personally in the text. These guidelines are also at the bottom of the bible passage handout. (Read out the guidelines)

As you read the story for yourself:

- Use your imagination and place yourself in the story as one of the disciples, the child, or Jesus. Ground your imaginings in the text, but try and take it from words on a page to an awareness of it being a real life situation.

Experience the story from the perspective of someone there.

- What is happening around you?
- What does it feel, sound, look, smell like? Try to really imagine it.
- How are you feeling? What are you thinking?
- What’s your attitude to Jesus? (Or if you are Jesus, your attitude to the others there)
- Do you think others are reacting the same way as you? What different things might they be thinking and feeling?

Notice what is going on inside you (the real you) as you engage with this text.

- How are you feeling emotionally?
- What is God directing your attention to?
- Have a conversation with Jesus about what’s going on.

Respond (10 mins): Come back together and share

- What stood out for you as you got into this story?
- What did you learn about Jesus? What did you learn about yourself?
- What do you think God wants you to take away from this story today?

Pray (10 mins): Pray for the application of what you've learned and heard from God today. This might be in the form of general prayer, but even better if it is as strategic, personalised ministry prayer for one another. (It may be better to do that in pairs or small groups.)

Mark: 33-37

New International Version (NIV)

Who Is The Greatest?

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

As you read the story for yourself:

- Use your imagination and place yourself in the story as one of the disciples, the child, or Jesus. Ground your imaginings in the text, but try and take it from words on a page to an awareness of it being a real life situation.

Experience the story from the perspective of someone there.

- What is happening around you?
- What does it feel, sound, look, smell like? Try to really imagine it.
- How are you feeling? What are you thinking?
- What’s your attitude to Jesus? (Or if you are Jesus, your attitude to the others there)
- Do you think others are reacting the same way as you? What different things might they be thinking and feeling?

Notice what is going on inside you (the real you) as you engage with this text.

- How are you feeling emotionally?
- What is God directing your attention to?
- Have a conversation with Jesus about what’s going on.

Put Yourself In The Story

Week 4: At the Home of Martha & Mary (Luke 10:38 -41)

Begin (1 min): Welcome the love of God among you and pray that the Holy Spirit will open the bible to you in life changing ways today.

Share (2 min):

Hand out copies of the Bible passage (Luke 10:38 -41) on the next page so everyone is working off the same version. Ignore the instructions at the bottom of that page at this point.

Read & Review (4 mins): Have one person read the whole story aloud to the group. Don't rush, give people time to focus on what is happening in the story. Ask someone else to summarise what happens in the story in his or her own words.

Put yourself in the story (10 mins): Everyone will now take 10 minutes on their own to read through the story again. The idea is to really immerse your self personally in the text. These guidelines are also at the bottom of the bible passage handout. (Read out the guidelines)

As you read the story for yourself:

- Use your imagination and place yourself in the story as one of the characters. Ground your imaginings in the text, but try and take it from words on a page to an awareness of it being a real life situation.

Experience the story from the perspective of someone there.

- What is happening around you? Why are you there?
- What does it feel, sound, look, smell like? Try to really imagine it.
- How are you feeling? What are you thinking?
- What's your attitude to others there?
- Do you think others are reacting the same way as you? What different things might they be thinking and feeling?

Notice what is going on inside you (the real you) as you engage with this text.

- How are you feeling emotionally?
- What is God directing your attention to?
- Have a conversation with Jesus about what's going on.

Respond (10 mins): Come back together and share

- What stood out for you as you got into this story?
- What did you learn about Jesus? What did you learn about yourself?
- What do you think God wants you to take away from this story today?

Pray (10 mins): Pray for the application of what you've learned and heard from God today. This might be in the form of general prayer, but even better if it is as strategic, personalised ministry prayer for one another. (It may be better to do that in pairs or small groups.)

Luke 10: 38-41

New International Version (NIV)

At the Home of Martha and Mary

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

As you read the story for yourself:

- Use your imagination and place yourself in the story as one of the characters. Ground your imaginings in the text, but try and take it from words on a page to an awareness of it being a real life situation.

Experience the story from the perspective of someone there.

- What is happening around you? Why are you there?
- What does it feel, sound, look, smell like? Try to really imagine it.
- How are you feeling? What are you thinking?
- What's your attitude to others there?
- Do you think others are reacting the same way as you? What different things might they be thinking and feeling?

Notice what is going on inside you (the real you) as you engage with this text.

- How are you feeling emotionally?
- What is God directing your attention to?
- Have a conversation with Jesus about what's going on.