

Bible Point ▶

Jesus can do anything.

Bible Verse

“I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- discover how blind people rely on their other senses,
 - hear how Jesus healed a blind man,
 - experience what it might be like to be blind, and
 - thank God for the gift of sight.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Jesus heals a blind man.

**Mark
10:46-52**



Bartimaeus’ blindness didn’t prevent him from hearing the ruckus of the approaching crowd. His cries of “Son of David” in addressing Jesus were not just a way of identifying Jesus’ lineage. Since the term “Son of David” is clearly a reference to the Messiah, Bartimaeus was shouting to both the crowd and to Jesus that he believed Jesus was the promised Messiah. Also, his persistence, even when people tried to hush him, showed that he was convinced Jesus could heal his blindness.

It’s interesting to note that Jesus didn’t force any agenda on Bartimaeus. He asked what Bartimaeus wanted. Notice also that Bartimaeus’ faith in Jesus initiated his healing. Jesus didn’t say, “Because you’ve lived a good life in spite of your hardship, I’ll heal you.” He didn’t say, “Because your parents were so faithful to me, I’ll give you your sight.” Jesus responded to Bartimaeus’ faith.

Prayer

- Read Hebrews 11:1.
- How does the Bible’s definition of faith compare with your own?
- Pray: Dear Lord, help me have complete faith in you. Please help me demonstrate that faith by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Fish Name Tags” (p. 97), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: What’s That Sound? —Try to recognize familiar sounds, and talk about how we use our ears to identify objects we can’t see.	CD player	
	Option 2: The Eyes Have It —Make modeling dough faces with their eyes shut, and hear how Jesus healed a man who couldn’t see.	Paper plates, marker, modeling dough	
	Option 3: What’s That Fruit? —Try to identify fruit without using their eyes, and hear how Jesus made a blind man see.	Lunch sacks, apple, orange, banana, peach	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Listen carefully for their names, and hear how the blind man heard Jesus coming.		
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear a story from Mark 10:46-52 about how Jesus healed a blind man.	Bible	
	Do the Bible Story —Lead each other around the room as the people led the blind man to Jesus.	Chairs	
Closing 	What Is Blind? —Help Whiskers experience what it’s like to be blind.	Blindfold	
	Yes, He Can —Sing a song, and thank God for things they can see.	CD player	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Fish Name Tags” (p. 97), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned...” discussion. Use questions such as “What did you tell your family about the little boy who shared his lunch with Jesus?” or “Did you have a family picnic? What did you eat?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus can do anything.**
- Hand out the fish name tags children made during Lesson 6, and help attach them to children’s clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopyable handout.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



For variety, have Whiskers greet children as they arrive, and let him participate in games or other activities.



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What do you think it would be like if you couldn’t see?” or “How did the blind man know Jesus was coming?”

■ Option 1: What’s That Sound?

SUPPLIES: CD player



Play the “Familiar Sounds” segment (track 13) from the CD. You’ll hear a dog barking, footsteps, a door closing, a car horn, a cat meowing, and a baby crying. Pause the CD after you play each sound, and let children guess what it is. Ask questions such as “How did you know what that was since you couldn’t see it?” Explain that people who can’t see with their eyes have to listen very carefully. Tell children that today’s Bible story is about a time Jesus helped a blind man see.

■ Option 2: The Eyes Have It

SUPPLIES: paper plates, marker, modeling dough

Before class, draw simple smiling faces (eyes and mouth only) on paper plates. Set out modeling dough, and let children use the dough to add features to their faces. Encourage them to add ears, noses, hair, and any other details they want. Have children try making the faces with their eyes shut, and then have them open their eyes and see what kinds of faces they’ve put together. As children work, talk about how our eyes, ears, noses, mouths, and hands help us learn about the world. Point out that it’s not easy to do things when we can’t see. Explain that today’s Bible story is about a time Jesus helped a blind man see.





■ Option 3: What's That Fruit?

SUPPLIES: lunch sacks, apple, orange, banana, peach

In separate paper lunch sacks, place an apple, an orange, a banana, and a peach. Let children try to identify the fruit in each bag first by smelling and then by touching. Talk about what it would be like to be blind and have to identify some things by only touch and smell. Explain that today's Bible story is about a blind man who asked Jesus to help him see.

After everyone's had a chance to guess, reveal the contents of each bag. You may want to cut up the fruit and let children sample each one.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: none

Tell the children you'll clap your hands three times to get their attention. Explain that when you clap your hands, the children are to stop what they're doing and repeat the clap. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Listened to sounds; made a face with dough; guessed what kind of fruit was in the bags.)

Say: **If you made a face with modeling dough, stand up and show me a funny face you can make, and then sit down.** Pause. **If you tried to guess which kind of fruit was in the bags, raise your hand and tell me your favorite fruit to eat.** Pause. **If you listened to sounds, stand up and make one of the sounds you heard, and then sit down.** Pause.

You've all been learning how important our eyesight is to us. People who can't see have to use their senses of touch, taste, smell, and hearing to discover things. Let's play a game now where we use our hearing to discover who's calling us.

Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Choose one child to sit in the center. Say: [Name of child in the center], **in just a minute I'm going to have you close your eyes. While your eyes are closed, I'll ask someone else in our circle to say your name. Without opening your eyes, when you hear your name, point to the person who's calling you and say his or her name if you know it.**

Have the child sitting in the center close his or her eyes, and then choose another child to call out the center child's name. Let the child in the center guess who called his or her name and then join the circle. After everyone has had a turn in the center, ask:

• **What was it like to guess who was calling you without looking?** (Hard; fun; I couldn't guess.)

Say: **It's fun to close our eyes and play a game. Today we'll hear about a man who couldn't see anything even when his eyes were open. He was blind, but he knew that Jesus could help him. ▶ *Jesus can do anything*, even make a blind man see. Let's bring out our Bible and get ready for that story now.**



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible helper to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible helper today. Each week one of you will get to be the Bible helper.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



**I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *happy-face stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *happy-face stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible



Gather the children around the *Learning Mats: Jesus Can Do Anything*. Open the Bible to **Mark 10:46-52**, and show the passage to the children. Say: **Our story comes from the book of Mark in the Bible, God's special book. Our Learning Mats show us pictures of our Bible story.**

We're going to hear about a blind man who called out to Jesus. Some people thought the blind man would bother Jesus, so they told him to stop calling and be quiet. I want you to listen very carefully to our Bible story. Every time you hear me say, "blind man," put your finger over your mouth and say "Shhh!" Let's try that. Blind man.

Pause for children to say "Shhh!" and then continue: **At the end of our story we'll shout "Hooray!" together. Let's try that. Hooray!**

One day Jesus was walking to the town of Jericho. A blind man named Bartimaeus was sitting by the side of the road. Can you find the blind man on our *Learning Mat*?

Pause and help children find the blind man on the *Learning Mat*, and then continue: **The blind man heard a crowd of people coming, and he heard that Jesus was in the crowd. The blind man got very excited when he heard that Jesus was coming because he knew that Jesus could help him see.**

The blind man called out, “Jesus, have mercy on me!” That meant he wanted Jesus to be kind to him and help him see. The blind man wanted to make sure Jesus would hear, so he shouted as loud as he could. The people in the crowd thought the blind man would bother Jesus. They told the blind man to be quiet. Do you think the blind man would bother Jesus? Let children respond.

The blind man knew that ► *Jesus can do anything.* He shouted even louder, “Jesus, have mercy on me!” Well, Jesus heard the blind man calling him. He said, “Tell the man to come here.”

The people in the crowd called the blind man. They said, “Cheer up! Jesus is calling you!” So the blind man jumped up right away and walked over to Jesus.

Jesus asked the blind man, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man answered Jesus, “I want to see.” Jesus could tell that the blind man believed in him. Jesus said, “You are healed because you believed in me.” And right away the blind man could see! Let’s see what happened after Jesus healed him.

Open the window on the *Learning Mat* to reveal the blind man standing up, ready to follow Jesus. Say: **The man followed Jesus down the road. When I count to three, let’s all stand up and shout “Hooray!” for Jesus and his mighty power. One, two, three—hooray!**

Now let’s play a game to help us see what it was like for the blind man before Jesus healed him.

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: chairs

Set up a short obstacle course with a couple of chairs. Form pairs. Say: **Let’s see what it might have been like for Bartimaeus when he was blind. One partner will close his or her eyes and pretend to be blind. The other partner will keep his or her eyes open and lead the blind partner around the chairs. Then we’ll switch, and the other partner can pretend to be blind. I’d like the person who’s wearing the most red to be the blind partner first.**

Have partners line up and lead each other around the chairs. Remind “seeing” partners to be careful as they guide their “blind” partners. After everyone has walked around the chairs, let children switch roles and repeat the activity. Then gather children in your story area.

Ask: • **What was it like to be the blind partner?** (Hard to keep my eyes closed; scary; I peeked.)

• **What was it like to be the partner who could see?** (I had to be careful; it was fun.)

Say: **The blind man in our Bible story always needed someone to help him, just as you needed your partners to guide you around the chairs. He wanted to see so he could walk around by himself and look at all the beautiful things God has made. He knew that ► *Jesus can do anything.* That’s why he asked Jesus to help him see.**



If you have a large class, you may want to set up more than one obstacle course so that more than one set of children can be participating at one time.



BIBLE VERSE



Say: Today we pretended to be blind like the man in our story. But you know what? The best part of the story is that Jesus helped him to see! Let's see what that must have felt like. We'll all close our eyes, and then together we'll say our Bible verse: ► "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength!" Then let's open our eyes so that we can see again. Ready?

When the children have repeated the verse and then opened their eyes, say: **Hooray! We can see! Let's thank Jesus for helping us in so many different ways.**

Pray: **Dear Jesus, you helped the blind man see, and you help us every day when we need you, too. Thank you for always being our friend. Amen.**

You know, I bet our friend Whiskers would like to hear our story about the blind man. Let's quietly call for him.

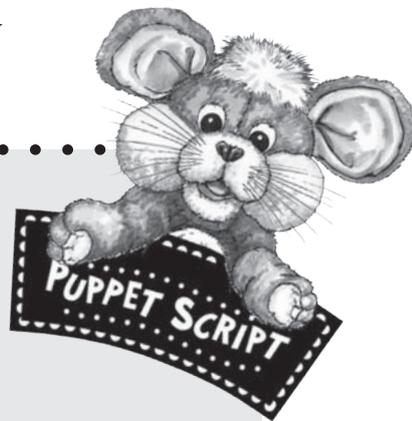
Lead children in calling for Whiskers.

Closing

■ What Is Blind?

SUPPLIES: blindfold for Whiskers

Bring out Whiskers and a blindfold, and go through the following script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: Hi, friends. Have you heard any good Bible stories today?

Teacher: Of course, Whiskers. We hear a Bible story every time we come to this class.

Whiskers: Well, what happened in the story? Tell me, tell me, please!

Teacher: Children, let's tell Whiskers how Jesus healed the blind man in our story.

(Help children begin to tell Whiskers the story, and then have Whiskers interrupt.)

Whiskers: Hold it, hold it. I don't understand. What does *blind* mean?

Teacher: Can someone tell Whiskers what it means to be blind?

(Help children explain that blind people can't see.)

Whiskers: We mice can't see very well either—that's why I sometimes have to wear glasses. Did he try getting glasses?

Teacher: Most blind people can't see anything at all, even with glasses. That's why it's so amazing that Jesus helped the man see.

Whiskers: I wonder what it would be like to be blind.

Teacher: We just played a game to help us see what it might be like to be blind. Would you like to try it?

Whiskers: (*Sounding suspicious*) What do I have to do?

Teacher: We'll cover your eyes, and then your friends will lead you across the room.

Whiskers: OK, I'll try it.

(*Put the blindfold over Whiskers' eyes, and have children help you lead him across the room.*)

Whiskers: Be careful now—I can't see anything. Don't let me trip and fall.

(*When you reach the other side of the room, remove Whiskers' blindfold.*)

Teacher: See, Whiskers, your friends didn't let you down. You trusted us! The man in our story had to trust the people in the crowd to help him find the way to Jesus.

Whiskers: And Jesus helped him see! That's really great. ► Jesus really can do anything. Let's close our eyes and say that together. ► Jesus can do anything. Now let's say it with our eyes open, like the blind man after Jesus helped him see. ► Jesus can do anything!

Teacher: Thanks for coming to visit us, Whiskers.

Whiskers: You bet! I love hearing about all the great things Jesus can do. I'll see you next week—I hope you'll have another Bible story for me. Goodbye!

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum®, Preschool, granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Avenue, Loveland, CO 80538. group.com



■ Yes, He Can

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: ► Jesus can do anything, and when he helps us we can do anything, too. Let's sing a song about that.

Lead children in singing "Everything Through Christ" (track 14) with the CD to the tune of "London Bridge."



I can do everything,
Everything, everything—
I can do everything
Through Christ,
Who gives me strength.

Jesus helps me do what's right
Every day, every night.
Jesus helps me do what's right—
He's with me
All day long.

Gather the children in a circle, and have everyone hold hands. Say: **Before we say a prayer, let's use our eyes and look around our room. What do you see that you can be thankful for?** (Toys; the Bible; other children.)

Now let's all close our eyes and pray together. Dear God, thank you for giving us eyesight to see all the beautiful things you've made. In Jesus' name, amen.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Cheer Up!**

Have children sit in a circle, and choose one child to be “It.” Review how Jesus healed the blind man, and then have children in the circle bow their heads and cover their eyes as if they were blind. Have “It” tap children on the head and say, “Be quiet.” When “It” taps a child and says, “Cheer up! Jesus is calling you!” that child must jump up and give “It” a hug. Then that child is “It.” Continue the game until everyone has had a turn to be “It.”

■ **Make to Take: Eyes That See**

Photocopy the “Eyes That See” handout from page 124. You’ll need a handout and a 1x10-inch white paper strip for each child.

Set out crayons, and let children color the face on the handout. As they’re coloring, cut the slits on each child’s handout as marked. Then pass out the paper strips, and have children draw open eyes on one side of the strip and closed eyes on the other side. Show children how to slide the strips through the slits. Encourage them to use their faces to retell the story of how Jesus healed the blind man. Remind them that ► Jesus can do anything.

■ **Treat to Eat: Cracker Eyes**



Set out round crackers, spreadable cream cheese, plastic knives, and chocolate chips. Help each child spread cream cheese on two crackers and then add chocolate chips to create cracker eyes. Thank God for the snack and for the gift of sight, and then enjoy! As children eat, review how Jesus helped the blind man see.

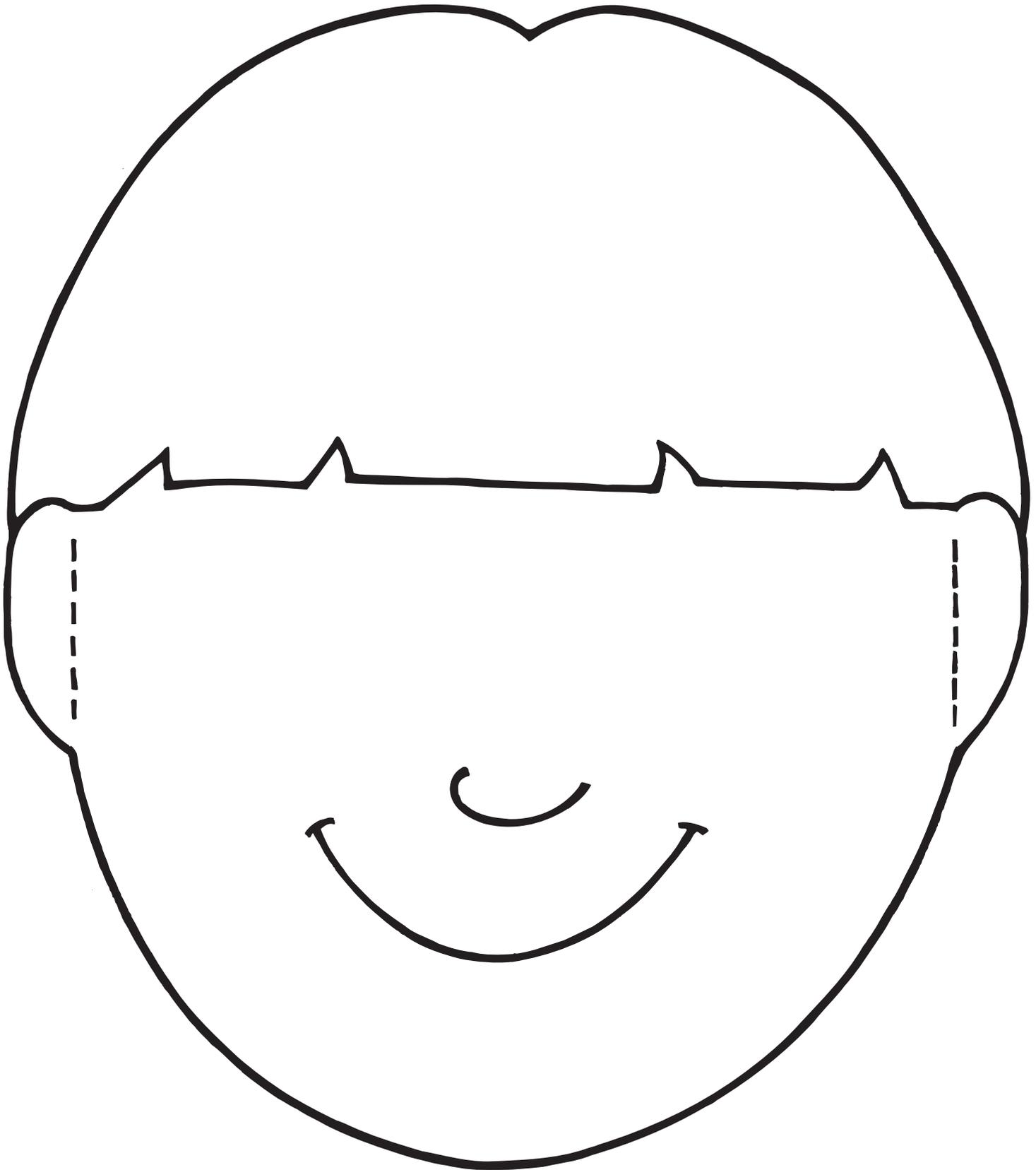


■ **Story Picture: Jesus Heals a Blind Man**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out crayons or markers, and let children color the picture. Then set out colored facial tissue and glue, and help the children glue the facial tissue to the blind man’s coat in the picture. Point out that the man jumped up and left his coat when he went to Jesus. Remind children that ► Jesus can do anything.

Eyes That See

Photocopy the handout. You'll need one handout for each child.



Today i learned... Jesus can do anything.

Help me learn this:

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Ask me:

- Why was the blind man shouting?
- Why were people telling the blind man to be quiet?
- What did the blind man do when he found out Jesus was calling him?

Family Fun

- Sing "Everything Through Christ" with your child, to the tune of "London Bridge."

**I can do everything,
Everything, everything—
I can do everything
Through Christ,
Who gives me strength!**
(Repeat.)

Lesson 8
Today your child learned that **JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING.** Children heard how Jesus healed a blind man. They did activities to see what it might be like to be blind and thanked God for the gift of sight.

Jesus Heals a Blind Man (Mark 10:46-52)

