

Faith in action: Bible reflection

Sight to the blind

Introduction:

Begin by playing a game where objects are identified by touch, not sight. Share together briefly the difficulties faced by those who are blind or partially-sighted. Consider what each would miss the most without the benefit of sight.

Bible Reflection:

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.
³⁶ When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” ³⁸ He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”
³⁹ Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”
⁴⁰ Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” “Lord, I want to see,” he replied.
⁴² Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.” ⁴³ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.
Luke 4:35-43

Read the passage through (it would be good for all to have a copy); take a moment in silence to ask God for his wisdom and then consider together the following thoughts:

Some people are physically blind through unfortunate circumstance; by birth or an accident.

Others choose to close their eyes; to social injustice; inequality; immorality; the plight of the poor.

Sometimes it's us who are blind – maybe we choose to close our eyes to the needs around us?

The blind man's faith in Jesus' mercy was greater than we might expect; his desperation to attract Jesus' attention was greater than worrying about what people thought of him. Are we able to learn from him as we consider our own faith in action?

Consider the two groups of people who hindered or helped the blind man in meeting Jesus. How can we ensure that our actions and attitudes help rather than hinder the people we serve to meet Jesus?

When Jesus asked the blind man what he wanted, he replied directly and honestly. Jesus asks us the same question: "What do you want me to do for you?" What will we answer as we seek to put our faith into action?

To finish:

Refer back to the game played at the beginning. Use the objects as a reminder of our need for Christ to give us spiritual sight.

Both the man who received his sight, and those who witnessed the miracle, responded by praising God. When we see the love of Jesus in action in our own lives and in others, let our response also be one of praise.

Prayer:

Lord, who came to open the eyes of the blind,
lead us from the darkness of selfishness and sin.

**Guide us through the door of your sacrifice
and into the light of life.**

Then let us lead others into your light;
Lord, open their eyes to behold your face.

**May we shine out your love
to a world in need of a Saviour's light.**

Amen

This reflection is from the *Inspired* initiative. You can find more resources at <http://inspired.mothersunion.org/>