February 8 – HEALING – ART

Jesus Heals –
ART WORKSHOP for Blind Bartimaeus

Several options for learning of Jesus Healing Blind Bartimaeus are listed. This lesson plan is a guide. Feel free to choose what works best for you in learning the story through ART:

* fabric story telling
* clay/playdough story recreating

Objectives:

- Jesus' healing power comes when we ask.
- Know the story of Blind Bartimaeus Mark 10:46-52 or Luke 18:35-43
- Jesus believes in us: our faith saves us!
- Learn the memory verse: "Go; your faith has saved you."

***There are several ways to tell this story:

1. Download the youtube the story of Blind Bartemaus:  
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Hdc49YqAWs
2. Download the youtube of Jesus Healing:  
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_00PM3bdCME
3. Today's lesson is ART based. Check out this youtube:  
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bAOojvfpms – get some clay/playdough and recreate the story.
4. Read/tell the story of Bartimaeus Sees from The Spark Story Bible p. 338
5. Look up the story in the children's bibles, Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

(The cable cord in the room should connect to your laptop and you should be able to find the youtube. If you have a MAC you'll want to bring an adapter to connect)

Materials: bibles, 4x6 index cards and markers/pencils to write the memory verse; large poster board; playdough/clay; symbols, sticks, fabric strips (white silky cloth, heavy black cloth, heavy cloth, rough cloth, sheer cloth or lace; gold and shimmery cloth, flannel, canvas, soft fabric, rough fabric, smooth fabric, bright fabric, dull fabric, etc.- see the story below) Symbols: a valentine, a flag, an easter egg, a cross, a shamrock, etc.

For artistically learning the story through fabric note the following:
You will want to have many different types of fabric colors and textures for students to select from and create their their Memory Banner or Memory Weaving.

The banner can be as simple as gluing the fabric cut interesting shapes IN THE STORY ORDER (see story order below).

[For older students, you could have them weave their chosen strips of fabric (in story order). To create a simple loom to weave the fabric strips, tie two dowel rods about 8 inches apart and 8" wide using hemp twine as the vertical ties in the loop. The fabric is then woven in horizontally through the twine.]

Key Scripture: "Jesus said to him, Receive your sight, your faith has healed you" Mark 10:52.

Open in prayer. Dear Lord, help us to see you. Help us to believe in your strength and power. Help us to tell others of your strength and power. Amen.

Remind the kids that the Old Testament tells us what happened before Jesus was born. New Testament tells what happens after Jesus was born. The New Testament and the
Have them find the gospel of Mark/Luke. Ask them to find chapter 10 in Mark and verses 46-52. Then find the story in Luke 18, verse 35-43. (Help the children learn how to look things up in their bibles, and ask them to help others. A valuable lesson).

Tell the kids you will be reading or showing the story to them, but to keep their bibles open to the passage, because you will be going back to it.

Read the story. Or, show the story from your youtube download/access.

Say (in your own words): Our memory verse for this lesson is the something that Jesus said in this story. “Go; your faith has saved you.”

Say (in your own words). Today’s art project will use symbols to tell the story we just heard. (Be sure the kids know what symbols are: things that represent other things, or remind us of things).

Before we start, let’s look at some things and you can tell me what they mean to you. Show these objects, in any order:
A Valentine, a US flag, an Easter egg, a cross, a shamrock, firecracker, wedding rings, lightning bolt, turkey, wise men, globe, Uncle Sam hat. Ask the kids what they represent.

The Story with Fabric

Say (in your own words): We will be using DIFFERENT TYPES OF FABRIC to represent the different verses in the story. (In a box have: a baby blanket; fur for a teddy bear, canvas for a potato sack, denim for work pants, etc. Ask the kids to feel the fabric of each; but they can’t see the item, they can only touch and feel)

Explain to the children that you have a box/bag of fabric strips.
Read/tell the story again. As they hear the story children should select a piece of fabric and be ready to explain how the fabric represents a part of the story. 

After the story is told and fabric pieces picked and connected to the story, invite the children to glue the strips onto a poster board. As they glue the fabric in the order of the story told, they need to explain how their fabric strip is a part of the story. Let the children help you keep the strips in order of the story. Or, as the story is told, weave the strips together as explained above for older children.

A Blind Beggar Receives His Sight (LUKE 18:35-43)

35As Jesus (white silky cloth) approached Jericho (palm or fruit cloth), a blind man (heavy black cloth) was sitting by the roadside begging, just outside the temple (you’re in the Temple room. Feel free to invite the children to come into the hallway to hear the story. Or, to sit just outside the temple walls of the entrance created in your classroom).

36When he heard the crowd (very loud cloth) going by, he asked what was happening.
37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth (white silky cloth) is passing by."

38 He called out, "Jesus, Son of David (white silky cloth), have mercy (soft flannel) on me!"

39 Those who led the way disapproved of (rough fabric) him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David (white silky cloth), have mercy on me!"

40 Jesus (white silky cloth) stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus (white silky cloth) asked him,

41 "What do you want me to do for you?"
"Lord (white silky cloth), I want to see," he replied.

42 Jesus (white silky cloth) said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you (lace)."

43 Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus (white silky cloth), praising God (shimmery gold fabric). When all the people saw it, they also praised God (shimmery gold fabric).

Say (in your own words): Let’s talk for a minute about the things I showed you and see if you remember what they represent. (Show in whatever order you prefer, giving them the reasons behind each cloth or object as you talk about them).

- Beggar represented by heavy black cloth (the beggars lived in darkness)
- Jesus represented by white silky cloth (Jesus was not spotted by sin, he was pure)
- Jericho represented by palm or fruits (Jericho is a tropical city, called the city of palms in the book of Deuteronomy. Citrus fruits grow abundantly there)
• Noise of crowd represented by a very loud cloth (this cloth is very colorful and exciting. The crowd was probably very excited to be traveling with Jesus)

• Beggars cry for mercy represented by soft flannel (the beggar was crying for compassion and kindness, represented by the softness of the flannel)

• Disapprove represented by a rough fabric (or rebuke: it feels bad when someone rebukes you...you may need to explain rebuke, depending on the age group)

• Jesus granting request represented by lace (The solid/sheer design of lace represents our faith...sometimes it is so strong and sometime it is very weak and fragile)

• Praising God represented by a shimmery gold fabric (Gold is the color of kings).

• Ask the children, what did the man "see" when he received his sight? Can you think of a time when you're “blind” to what you need to see? (use dark and light fabric to illustrate this setting).

• Jesus asked blind Bartimeaus, “what do you want me to do for you?” Bartimeaus needed Jesus to perform a healing miracle. How would you answer Jesus' question?

OR: ANOTHER STORY WITH PLAYDOUGH/CLAY

Look again at the one minute youtube of the story told with clay/playdough figures. Invite the children to pick their characters and then form them from playdough (beggers; Bartimeaus; Jesus; a large crowd of folks). Line up the characters on a thick piece of cardboard. Invite the children to tell the story as they move their figures along throughout the story.

Memory Verse: “Go; your faith has saved you.”
Pass out the index cards and markers/pens, etc. Invite the kids to write their memory verse. You will need to write it on a large board first, for many to copy.

**Some background:** What was it like being blind in Bible times

Blindness was a common ailment in biblical times due to inadequate nutrition, infectious diseases and poor pre-natal and post-natal care. Because employment required able-bodied and healthy workers, the infirm, lame, blind or otherwise physically handicapped in society were unable to work. Blind people were also illiterate (Braille had not been invented yet). They were uneducated and disrespected. Socially they were powerless.

Even worse, people in those days looked at physical illness as a punishment by God for some sin they had committed; therefore they were outcasts of society. They were forced to beg from passers-by and depend on the compassion of family and strangers. We know that this assumption of sinfulness leading to illness was common at the time. In the ninth chapter of the gospel of John, Jesus heals another blind man and addresses the issue of sin causing illness. “Who sinned, this man or his parents?” the disciples asked. “Neither,” Jesus replies. “This happened so that the glory of God might be revealed.” (John 9:3) This was a new and radical idea for the Jewish people. God does not punish people with illness, but God uses the illnesses and hardships of the world to reveal his character and purpose.

“Blindness” in the scriptures was also a metaphor for sin, or being “blind to God”, or blind to the truth, or people’s needs. Share some examples of this with the children.

**Jesus' miracles most often had a special function. Jesus performed miracles because they were part of his calling to do the unexpected and to reveal the nature, power and authority of God.** The miraculous events themselves are important. But just as important are the consequences of the miracles and what the miracles taught the
people involved and what they continue to teach us today. Perhaps the most important question the miracle stories force us to ask is the question Jesus asked of his followers, “Who do you say I am?”

**How can we “see” Jesus clearly?**
What do we learn about Jesus through this miracle on the road to Jericho? Jesus reveals that the Kingdom of God is about focusing on the needs of others – the outcasts, poor, lame, sick and showing compassion to them. Jesus reveals that he has authority over illness and injury. Jesus reveals that faith releases God’s power in our lives. Bartimaeus received more than physical healing on that day. His life was transformed by a revelation from the living God. He discovered that wholeness comes from being in relationship with Jesus.

**Closing prayer:**
*Dear Lord: thank you for believing in us that we may believe we may go and tell the good news of your saving strength. Amen.*