

### **Activity Instructions**

Today we are looking at the story of Jesus healing the blind man in John 9 and exploring physical and spiritual sight.

#### **Activity 1: Blindfolded activity.**

Do a list of activities (or a selection from) while blindfolded. You can create your own list to suit your family and the items you have in your home or follow the suggested list below. Gather all the items needed before you begin.

Suggested list: Build a tower from bricks or yoghurt pots or other items you have at home, draw a picture, fold some clothes, pour a glass of water, tie a shoelace, write your name.

Afterwards talk about what it was like not to be able to see what you were doing. Did you do anything different to help you complete the different tasks, like perhaps you felt for the edge of the paper before drawing your picture or kept your hand on the brick you placed on your tower while picking up the next brick so that you didn't knock down the tower each time you went to add the next brick, or put your finger inside the top of the glass when pouring the water so you could feel when the water got close to the top and didn't spill!

The man in today's story was born blind so had to learn to do everything without being able to see. Do you think it would be harder to learn to do something when you can't see?

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. John 9:1*

#### **Activity 2: Mud pies**

When we meet together in the church, we often have a messy activity and here is one you can do at home, perhaps out in the garden.

You will just need some mud and a little water. Have some fun together making mud pies.

In today's story Jesus did an amazing miracle with some mud which he smoothed on the man's eyes, giving the man the gift of sight after so many years of being blind. Jesus used an ordinary item to do something so extraordinary.

*Then he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smoothed the mud over the blind man's eyes. He told him, 'Go and wash in the pool of Siloam' (Siloam means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came back seeing! John 9: 6-7*

#### **Activity 3: Seeing more!**

For this activity you will need one of the following: a magnifying glass, binoculars, microscope or telescope.

Use whichever you have to look around your environment to see what you can see that you normally can't with just your eyes.

Sometimes our eyes don't let us see things that are there because they are too small or too far away, but if we use a magnifying glass, binoculars, microscope or telescope we can see things that

were not visible when just using our eyes. The man in today's story did not see until he washed away the mud Jesus put on his eyes. All the things were there but the man just couldn't see them.

*The Pharisees asked the man all about it. So he told them, 'He smoothed the mud over my eyes, and when it was washed away, I could see!' John 9:15*

#### **Activity 4: Icing and decorating**

You will need some buns or biscuits, some icing and decorations (sprinkles and/or sweets) for this activity.

Put some icing on your bun/biscuit and then choose how you will decorate it using the sweets and/or sprinkles. Does it make you happy when you do this activity? Perhaps you can thank God for activities that are fun and fill you with happiness. Are there other activities that you like to do that give you times of fun and happiness? Are they activities you do together as a family or ones you do alone or maybe a mixture?

The man must have been filled with joy and happiness when Jesus told him who he really was, the Son of God.

*Jesus found the man and said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man answered, 'Who is he, sir, because I would like to?' 'You have seen him Jesus said,' Jesus said, 'and he is speaking to you!' 'Yes, Lord,' the man said, 'I believe!' And he worshipped Jesus. John 9:35-38*

#### **Activity 5: What do you see?**

For this activity you will need these links

<https://www.facebook.com/whereswally/photos/> (Where's Wally pictures)

<https://www.optics4kids.org/optical-illusions> (Lots of optical illusions puzzles/pictures)

With the Where's Wally pictures you might like to have a race to see who finds Wally first and with the optical illusion picture puzzles you could talk together about how you see the pictures. Do you all see the same thing or not?

I'm sure when you were looking at some of those pictures you needed help to see what was going on. The man in today's story knew that Jesus had to be special and from God to heal him and give him back his sight but he did not know who Jesus really was until Jesus showed him. The man obviously had spiritual sight, he knew that Jesus was special but he didn't yet know who Jesus really was. He needed Jesus to help him gain deeper spiritual sight which he gained when Jesus talked to him.

*Never since the world began has anyone been able to open the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he couldn't do it. ... Jesus found the man and said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man answered, 'Who is he, sir, because I would like to?' 'You have seen him Jesus said,' Jesus said, 'and he is speaking to you!' 'Yes, Lord,' the man said, 'I believe!' And he worshipped Jesus. John 9: 32-33 & 35-38*

### **Activity 6: Follow the leader**

Play a game of Follow the leader but with a difference. First play it with your eyes closed, then play it with your eyes open.

How did it feel to have your eyes shut when playing the game? Was it better and more fun when you had your eyes open?

We see with our eyes, that is physical sight but we also have spiritual sight, that is like seeing God and Jesus with the eyes of our heart, what we feel and know inside of us about God. The man in today's story knew Jesus was special and from God but he really did not know who Jesus was until he spent time with Jesus and Jesus told him who he was. He had spiritual sight, he knew that getting his sight healed was from God but he needed help to really see who Jesus was. That is the same for us. We need to spend time with Jesus so that we too get to know him better. That means we need to talk to Jesus and listen to him, sometime we call that praying and it is just like when we sit down or go for a walk and talk and listen to our friends, we get to know them more.

*Jesus found the man and said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man answered, 'Who is he, sir, because I would like to?' 'You have seen him Jesus said,' Jesus said, 'and he is speaking to you!' 'Yes, Lord,' the man said, 'I believe!' And he worshipped Jesus. John 9:35-38*