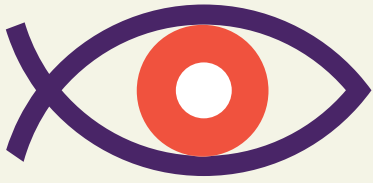


**SEEING
THROUGH
THE EYES OF
JESUS**

**CHILDREN'S
CURRICULUM
SESSION 5**

www.cbf.net/eyesofjesus



SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

Calling us back to
the central focus of
our Christian faith:
**The Risen and
Living Jesus!**

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CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

SESSION 5 SEEING LIKE JESUS

SCRIPTURE:
Mark 8:22-26

CENTRAL MESSAGE:

When we try to see people through the eyes of Jesus, we use our hearts to see them, not just our eyes.



EARLY ARRIVER ACTIVITY

As children arrive, tell them to draw three things on three different sheets of paper: a person, a place and a thing. It can be any person, place or thing they would like. Encourage them to draw things their friends might not be able

to guess. These drawings will be used for a game in the gathering time. If you do not have many early arrivers, have children do this activity for the first five minutes, so that you have at least 10 pictures to work with later.



GATHERING TIME

Begin your Gathering Time by asking for “highs and lows.” This simply means that each person should share one high from their week that made them happy, and one low from their week that made them sad/hurt/angry. Explain that we share our highs and lows with one another so that we can better care for one another, celebrate each other’s successes, and know how to pray for each other.

After sharing highs and lows, have a short time to take prayer requests. Explain that a prayer request can be a celebration or a sadness, because we can bring everything in our lives to God and to our friends. Encourage children to voice prayer requests for one another based on the highs and lows that were just shared.

Invite someone to pray for the group. If children are hesitant, remind them that there is no right or wrong way to pray. They do not have to list every prayer request mentioned, as God has already heard them all before we even spoke them aloud. If no one volunteers, an adult can pray for the group.

It is now time to use the drawings. Shuffle them all up and tell children that if a picture they drew comes up, they are not allowed to guess or tell anyone what it is. Hold up each photo and allow children to guess what they are looking at. Tell them that each picture is either a person, place or thing drawn by one of their friends. Play this for about five minutes, getting through as many of the pictures as you can.

When you finish playing, ask a few of these questions:

- Were some of the pictures harder to guess than others?
- What made a picture easier or harder to guess correctly?
- Was there a picture where you could not guess correctly because you did not know the person/place/thing that was pictured?

****The following is written in a script-like form, but does NOT have to be used as such. In fact, try your best not to use it as a script. Instead, take the general idea and tailor it to your group. This will make it seem more like a conversation the children are a part of rather than strictly a lesson they are receiving***

Today, we are talking about what it means to see people through the eyes of Jesus. Although we all have eyes, we might all see some things differently because of who we are. For example, in our game, if I drew my mom on a piece of paper, you and I could both see her with our eyes, but you might not know who she is and I would! If (insert child’s name) drew his/her house, you might not be able to guess correctly if you’ve never been to their house, but they would know it.

Our story in the Bible today is about Jesus healing a blind man. Jesus helps this man to be able to see things for the very first time. Maybe each of us here has better or worse eyesight. Some of us might need glasses or contacts to see really well. But when we’re talking about seeing the world through the eyes of Jesus, here’s the secret: We’re actually talking about seeing people with our hearts instead of our eyes!

(Before you explain what you mean by this, ask children what they think you mean. Their creativity and intelligence may surprise you!)

Seeing people with our hearts means that when we see them, we aren’t judging them based on their appearance. We have to get to know them with our hearts. That means we see them as a child of God and getting to know them. (We are all children of God!)

We are now going to break into small groups and rotate through our different stations.

Use your best judgment to decide how to break children into small groups for rotations based on your age range and number of children. I recommend groups of six to eight. You will need one adult to facilitate each rotation which may determine how many groups you will have rotating at a time.



ACTIVITIES/ROTATIONS

1: Bible Explorers

We are going to begin with a Bible skills game. Divide children into groups of two or three, depending on your numbers. Give them a series of letters, and see which team can find a book of the Bible beginning with that letter the fastest.

Then, ask them how they decided to find an answer the fastest. Did they use the table of contents, or did they automatically think of a book when you said certain letters? Have someone read Mark 8: 22-26. It is a shorter passage; so if multiple children volunteer, allow a few to read it aloud. Facilitate conversation around the following “I wonder...” questions:

- I wonder how the people in this community treated the blind man.
- I wonder if Jesus saw the blind man differently than he saw a person who could see.
- What would I think of someone who was blind when I saw them?
- What would it mean to see the man in our story today with our hearts instead of just with our eyes?

2: The Limits of our Eyes

Materials: Pictures of different types of people, either from your community or from the internet.

This rotation is meant to help children understand that when we judge only with our eyes, we miss out on a lot!

Gather five to 10 pictures of different types of people. These can be random photos from a Google search, or people that the children know from your community. As you hold up each photo, ask them what they can know about the person in the picture JUST by looking at their photo. If you are using a photo of someone they know, they may have a hard time differentiating between what they already know about the person and what they can tell only from looking at the picture. Below are examples of things you could observe by looking at a photo versus things you can observe by actually knowing a person.

Things you can know by what your eyes can see:

- Skin color/eye color/hair color
- What kind of clothes they are wearing
- Whether they are tall or short

Things you can't see with just your eyes:

- Someone's personality
- If they are a mom, dad, sister or brother
- Their favorite color or favorite food

After you do this with a few of the photos, discuss the differences between what you can see with your eyes versus what you can see when you get to know someone. That's why Jesus wanted to be friends with everyone, even people who looked dirty or that no one else wanted to be around. He knew that every person has a story and that when we get to know someone, we can see them with our hearts—not just our eyes.

3: Believing without Seeing

Materials: a large bag, enough small random objects to have one item per child

Gather some random objects and place them in a large bag so that children can't see what's inside. Here are some suggestions for what might go in the bag, but feel free to include whatever you have on hand. Make sure to have enough items for each child to play.

- A key
- Toothbrush
- Sponge
- Umbrella
- Sunglasses
- Small "baby" Bible
- Flashlight
- Lego
- Quarter
- Whisk
- Bottle of soda
- Kid-size candy bar

Have each child close his or her eyes and remove one item from the bag. Without opening their eyes, have them feel the item and try to guess what it is.

After all items have been removed from the bag and identified, talk about which items were easy to identify and which were more difficult.

In our Scripture today, Jesus heals a blind man who could not see. While our world calls this a disability, people who are blind can also notice things that we can't because we rely on our eyes so much, while they rely on other senses! Sometimes our eyes cause us to make quick judgements about people because of how they look, when God wants us to see people for who they are, not what they look like.



CLOSING

Bring children back together in the same space you had your Gathering Time. Ask them a few questions to help them process together:

- What have you learned today about the limits of your eyes? What can they see? What can they not see?
- What do you think Jesus sees when he looks at a person?
- How can we try to see more with our hearts?

Ask someone to close your time in prayer before parents arrive. If children are reluctant to pray, write this simple prayer on a dry erase board and say it aloud together:

God, thank you for this time together with our church family and friends. Help us to practice all that we learned about being your followers. Amen.