

Jesus heals a blind man



SuT1H

John 9:1-34

Aim: to see that Jesus brings light into people's lives with healing, joy and hope



Jesus's miracles often caused a range of responses from the people watching. There was something threatening in his power that made some of the religious people of the day hate him, hurl accusations at him and even want to plot his death. This story is a case in point. The Pharisees were divided when they heard of the healing of the blind man. Some believed Jesus must be evil because he healed on the Sabbath day of rest. Others questioned how an evil person could heal anyone at all. The healed man's parents were frightened and wouldn't say who they believed Jesus to be, despite the wonderful news that their blind son could now see. They referred the Pharisees back to their son to give his opinion. Jesus did an amazing thing in giving the blind man his sight but the scripture says that the reason for this miracle went far beyond the man and his family. Jesus corrected his disciples preconceived ideas that the man's blindness was caused by sin. Rather the physical blindness had been allowed so that others might receive spiritual sight about Jesus's true identity. It caused disputes and anger but it also caused some people around to believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Jesus continues to transform lives today and gives opportunities for people to receive spiritual sight. Its important that we don't turn a blind eye to those opportunities.



Play guess the object game. Firstly, let the children see the line of toys and name each. Cover all your items with a cloth. Put your hands under the cover and feel one object. Say, for example: *I feel something (soft, big, fluffy) What is it?* The children guess without seeing, from your description. (If they struggle, uncover part of each object and make it fun.)



In the Bible story days there was no help for people who couldn't see. The doctors couldn't and the rulers wouldn't help. They had to beg for money and it was really hard for them. Let's hear what happened when Jesus met a blind man. Read 'I am the light', pg. 167

Put a blindfold on one of the cuddly toys from the game and use it to be the blind man in the story. Pretend that he can't see and needs to touch the hands of a few children to know who they are.

Isn't Jesus amazing! He's better than a doctor and kinder than the people in charge. He wanted the blind man to see and he wanted the people to see that he was God, and that they had a sort of blindness too. Jesus can help people to discover lots of things when they put their trust in him.



- *I wonder how it felt when the man opened his eyes and realised that he could see*
- *I wonder what his mummy and daddy said when they saw he could see*
- *I wonder what Jesus wants us to see*



Give everyone a pingpong ball and ask them to get it in a bucket without leaving their chairs. Talk about the importance of seeing things clearly and getting the right perspective. Wonder together about the perspectives of the blind man, his parents and the Pharisees and why they were so different



- Play 'I Spy' using the items from the guessing game
- Put some small items in a cloth bag and see if everyone can guess what they are just by touching them through the bag
- Give everyone an 'I can see...' sheet and ask them to draw pictures, or stick photos from magazines, of things that they can see in the world around them
- Set up a simple obstacle course and ask grown ups to help the children make it around the obstacles wearing a blindfold
- Give everyone a coloured sweet while they have their eyes closed. See if they can guess what colour it is without looking



Ask everyone to stand with their eyes closed and their hands by their side

Thank you God for eyes to see

Tell everyone to open their eyes

Thank you God for hands to feel

Tell everyone to hold someone else's hand

Help me to use my eyes to see and my hands to feel to be kind to those around me

Amen



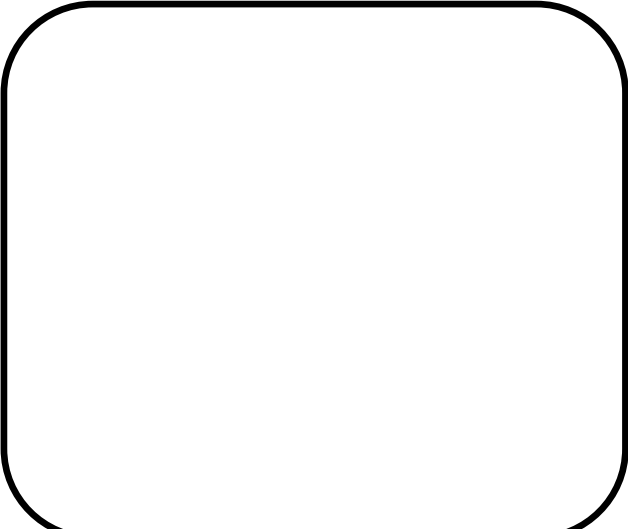
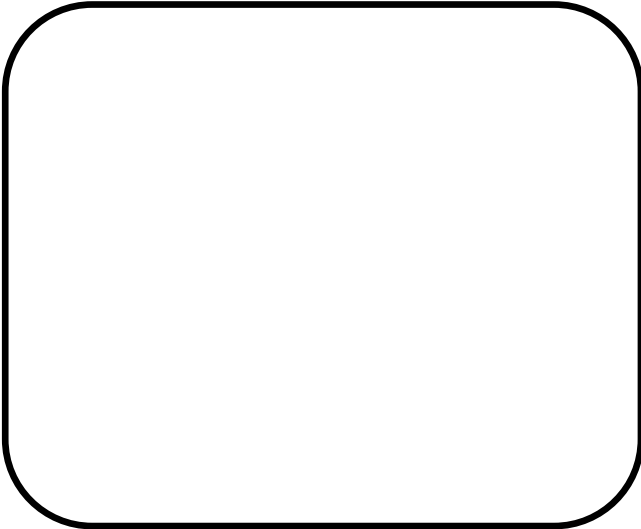
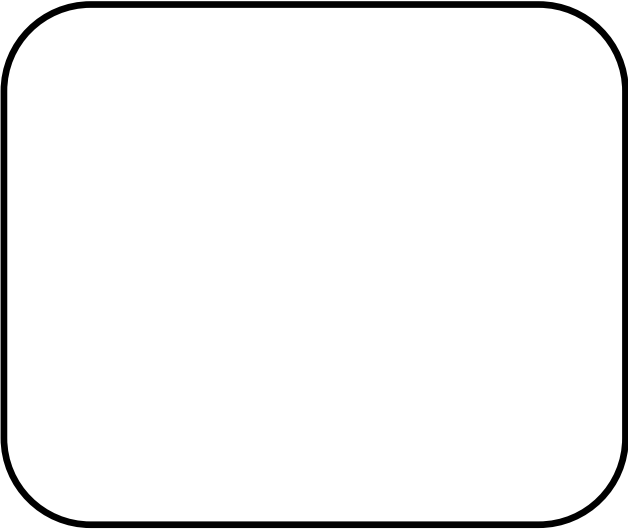
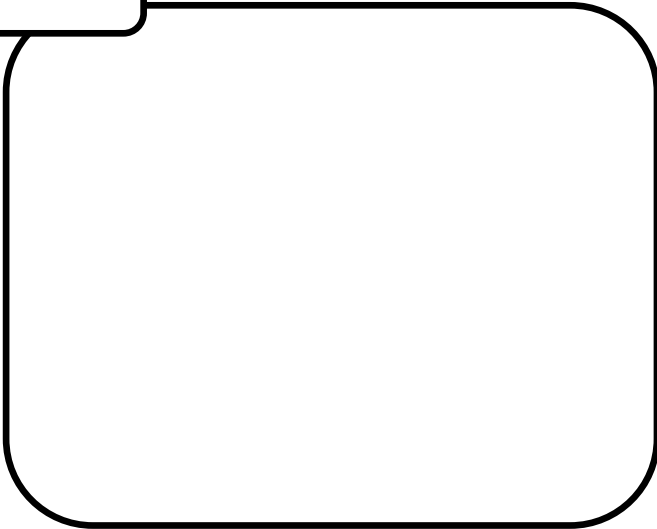
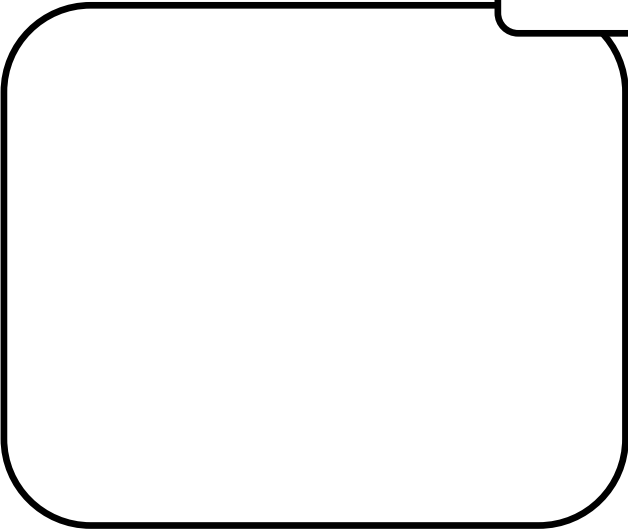
- Nothing's too big
- Who's the king of the jungle
- Our God is a great big God



Watch a video clip of the story together: <https://youtu.be/yOdv5iDpBrQ>

Play Blind mans bluff (One child is blindfolded and has to find others in the room as they move around. (Adult supervision is important)

I can see...



My favourite thing is _____