



## 01.24.10/ Mark 8:22-30

**Materials Needed:** blindfolds

**Opening Activity and Discussion:** Tell the children that tonight we are going to discuss another miracle where Jesus restored someone's sight, only this time Jesus chose to work a little differently. Blindfold children and once they are blindfolded, turn the lights off. Ask the children what they can see (should be nothing!). Then have them take the blindfolds off (but leave the lights off). Now ask the children if they can see. They should be able to make out some things, but not very clearly. Ask the children what types of things they could do with this level of "seeing." (maybe walk around the room, watch TV, etc.) What sort of things would they be unable to do at this level of "seeing?" (read a book, prepare a meal, etc.) Then turn the lights back on. Discuss how the children felt throughout the different stages of moving from blindness to full range of sight. Tell the children to remember those feelings as we learn about a man who moved from blindness to full sight because of Jesus' healing touch.

**Read Mark 8:22-30** "And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Do you see anything?" And he looked up and said, "I see men, but they look like trees, walking." Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. And he sent him to his home saying, "Do not even enter the village." And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets" And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am? Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him."

**Question 1:** This is the only time Scripture records Jesus healing someone in different stages. Why do you think Jesus chose to not heal the man completely right away? *It was certainly not b/c Jesus didn't have enough power heal him all at once. Jesus obviously had a specific reason. By the gradual healing of the blind, Jesus showed a physical example of what happens in our lives when Jesus restores our spiritual sight – it's a process, a journey! We move from complete blindness to partial sight – we have a relationship with God, but still have many things to learn and understand. Our spiritual sight continues to increase as we mature in our faith and grow in relationship with God, until we are united with him and can see him clearly! ("For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." 1 Corinthians 12:13)*

**Question 2:** Why did Jesus tell the man to go straight home, rather than going to the village first? *The time was not yet right for Jesus to completely reveal himself. People who saw the man might have been tempted to follow Jesus as a healer, rather than as a Savior. God reveals himself to people in his own timing.*

The timing of this miracle may also be an example of how the spiritually blind disciples were about to receive their sight. Just like the blind man, when Peter first identified Jesus as the Christ, he only had partial sight. He knew that Jesus was the Messiah, but didn't understand that Jesus was a Messiah that came to suffer and to serve, not to drive out the Roman rulers and sit on an earthly throne as king. It wasn't until later on, after Jesus had died on the cross and been raised to life again that Peter began to understand the type of Messiah that Jesus was (a humble servant Messiah like we see in Isaiah 53)

**Question 3:** Can you think of some examples in your own life where God gave you partial spiritual sight, but then later allowed you to see things more clearly? *Allow children to answer on their own. Examples might include when Mommy or Daddy told you not to do something and you understood a little bit, but after some time passed you understood even more why they said what they said.*

**Discussion:** Jesus asked the disciples a question that is very important for us to answer as well – "Who do you say I am?" Who do you think Jesus is? How we answer this question determines everything else about our life and how we live it. Take some



time to reflect within the group on who Jesus is. After some sharing time, ask the group how our day to day lives and attitudes might look different if we lived in an awareness of who Jesus really is all the time.

**Wrap Up:** Perhaps the most encouraging part of this passage is that Jesus did not leave the man halfway healed, but continued to work in his life until the man saw everything clearly. Jesus will do the same for us! In Philippians 1:6, Paul writes, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." As you close in prayer, thank God that He never gives up on us, but continues to work in our lives, increasing our faith and our spiritual sight.