



## Messy Church at home

### Sunday 26 September 2021

Trusting is believing

Even though restrictions have lifted, we're remaining cautious for a bit longer. Hopefully we'll meet together as a Messy Church again soon. In the meantime, how about trying Messy Church at home? Try the activities, using bits and pieces you might have at home. If you can't find the exact same items, what things could you use instead?

#### **Read: Mark 10: 46-52**

Here's a dramatised version of the reading adapted from the *Get Messy* magazine, which you could read out loud together taking different parts.

**Narrator:** Jesus travelled to many different places to talk about and share God's love with others. One day, Jesus was walking along a road to Jericho. Crowds of people lined up along the road. There was also a blind man, named Bartimaeus, sitting with the crowd begging for food and money. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was coming, he began to shout as loud as he could.

**Bartimaeus:** Jesus, help me!

**Crowd:** Be quiet! Shhhh!

**Narrator:** Unfortunately, during this time people in Bartimaeus' position were looked down on and treated without respect. Bartimaeus refused to be quiet and continued to shout louder, because even though he could not see, he knew that Jesus had the power to heal him. Jesus heard Bartimaeus' shouts and said,

**Jesus:** Bring that man to me.

**Narrator:** Bartimaeus threw his only possession, the cloak he was wearing, aside, and the crowd helped him get to Jesus.

**Jesus:** What do you want me to do for you?

**Bartimaeus:** I want to see.

**Narrator:** Bartimaeus was instantly healed and could see.

**Jesus:** Go! Your faith has healed you!

## Activities

### What do you see?

You will need:

- The quiz sheet below
- Pen/pencil to write down the answers

Use the quiz sheet below. Guess which eyes belong to which animal. As you play the quiz, study the different types of eye. What shape are they? How do the shape of an animal's eyes help them see differently? Do you think they help the animal see better at night or during the day? Big, round eyes usually help animals see in the dark. Almond-shaped eyes help animals see all around them.

Look at the shape of your own eyes. What colour are they? Do you wear glasses? What do your eyes say about you? Consider what it must be like not to be able to see like Bartimaeus. Maybe you know someone who doesn't see very well. What kind of help do they need?

### Reaching out

You will need:

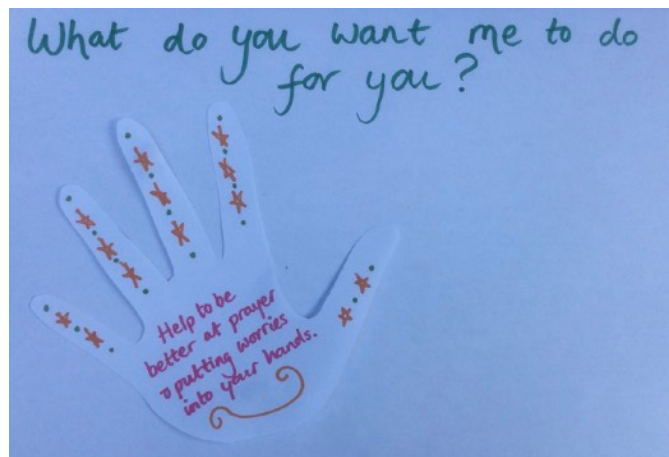
- Paper
- Pens
- Scissors
- Glue

On a large piece of paper, write at the top:

What do you want me to do for you?

On a separate sheet of paper, draw round your hand and carefully cut round it. Decorate your hand shape and write or draw on it something you want to ask Jesus to help you with.

Stick everyone's hands on to the large sheet of paper.



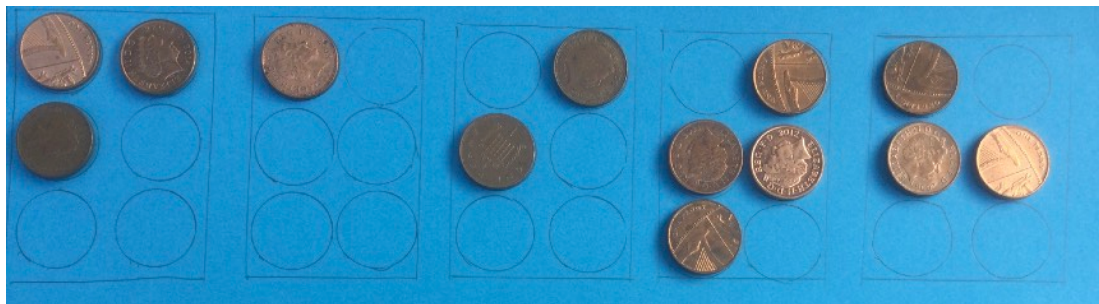
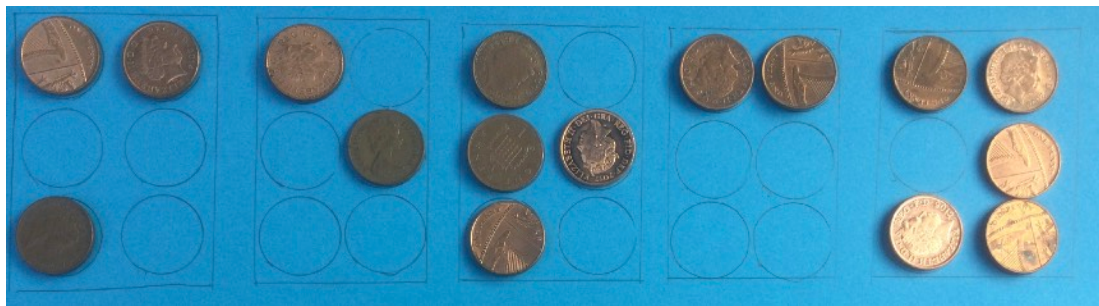
As you create your hands, think about how Bartimaeus reached out to Jesus. His trust in Jesus gave him the courage to ask for help, and his faith healed him. Is it easy or hard to ask for help? Sometimes it can be hard, but God wants us to ask.

## Reading by touch

You will need:

- Braille template (see below)
- Braille alphabet chart (see below)
- Something you can stick down that creates a raised surface, for example, plastic gems, buttons, coins etc.
- Blu-tac

Braille is a system of raised dots used by blind people to read and write. A braille 'cell' is made up of six dots, with each letter using a different pattern. Use the braille chart and template below (or draw out your own) to write words from the story, such as faith, mercy, trust etc. Stick the gems/buttons/coins, or whatever you're using, in the correct positions on the template to create the words.



Close your eyes and run your fingers over the words to read them. Can you understand them? Think about how every day we complete tasks without even thinking about it: reading books and signs, writing shopping lists and letters. Bartimaeus asked Jesus for mercy - his compassion and kindness. How can we make sure we don't take what we have for granted and that we show others compassion and kindness?

## Hidden surprise

You will need:

- The optical illusion painting below by Rob Gonsalves
- Pens/paper

Study the painting. What do you see? Can you see the picture within the picture? Have a go at drawing your own optical illusion picture. It's not easy to do is it?



Something unexpected happened in today's story. Jesus heard and responded to a request for help from someone everyone else ignored. Are there people you know who might get overlooked or told be quiet? God wants us to see in new ways - to look beyond what we see at first glance and to see and treat all people as he would.

### **Reflect**

On the surface, the story of Bartimaeus is about Jesus healing a blind man. However, if you look a bit deeper, you see something more: a story of persistence, faith, compassion and new beginnings.

Bartimaeus was persistent. He kept asking for what he wanted. He wasn't deterred by the people shushing him. He was bold and not afraid to seek something he needed.

Bartimaeus had faith. He understood the power Jesus had. He completely trusted that Jesus could heal him and he did.

Jesus showed his compassion for someone who was considered 'less than' in society. Bartimaeus was despised by others, but Jesus treated him with respect and had mercy on him.

Jesus teaches us to see the world with new eyes - to see and feel the world differently. Bartimaeus getting his sight back gave him a new start in life. When we truly trust in God, as Bartimaeus did, we are made whole and we have an opportunity for a fresh start and to see the world anew.

## **Sing**

Remember to keep singing Jesus' love is very wonderful!

And how about learning this new song? [Ask, seek, knock](#) from Hillsong Kids reminds us that we should ask God for what we need.

## **Pray**

Start by using this prayer to ask God for what you need.

Dear loving and gracious God, we give thanks knowing that we can come to you and ask for what we need. God, please help *[say names of people you know who need God's help right now]*. God, please help our community *[say what your local community really needs help with at the moment]*. God, please help our world to *[say what you think the world needs help with right now]*. God, please help me *[say what you really need God's help with at the moment]*. Thank you Lord. Amen.

You might also like to say The Lord's Prayer. And perhaps you'd like to finish with Messy Grace - can you remember the actions we do when we say it? Here's a reminder...

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands in front of you)  
And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)  
Be with us all now and for ever. Amen (Raise hands together on the word 'Amen'  
and shout loudly!)

## Animal eyes quiz

Which animal do these eyes belong to? (Answers below - no peeking until you've finished!)

1.



2.



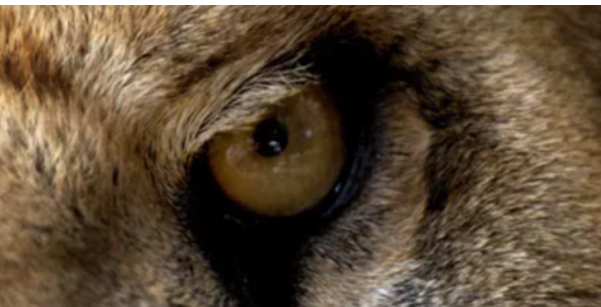
3.



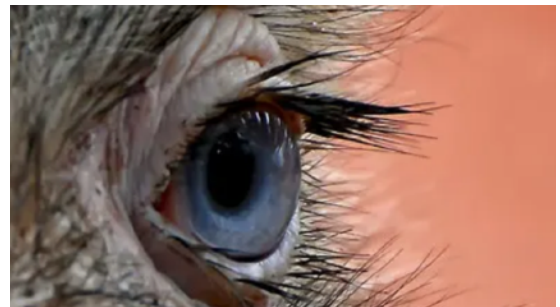
4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



## Braille chart and template

A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K



L



M



N



O



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