

Seeking and Following Jesus

OBJECTIVE: *To realize what it means to seek Jesus and to encourage each other to seek him.*



WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about Jesus that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

"All Consuming Fire"

"As a Deer"

"I Stand, I Stand in Awe of You"

"I Will Call Upon the Lord"

"Into My Heart"

"More Love, More Power"

"My Life Is in You, Lord"

"O Lord, You're Beautiful"

"One Thing I Ask of the Lord"

"Seek Ye First"

STORY

Two Blind Men Seek Jesus, Matthew 20:29-34

- Two blind men call out to Jesus.
- Jesus asks what they want, and they say they want to be able to see.
- Jesus touches their eyes and they are healed.

Ask each person to close his eyes and imagine what it would be like to be blind. Ask him to keep his eyes closed and imagine he is the blind man as you read the story from Scripture. All may open their eyes when you read about Jesus healing the blind men.

MEMORY VERSE

"Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you" (Psalm 9:10).

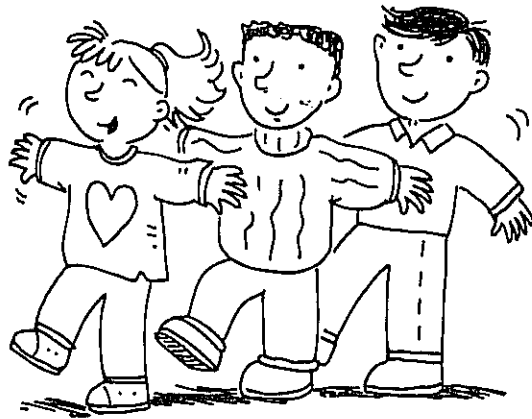
Talk about the meaning of the word *seek*. Help the children remember the verse by teaching them to sing it to the tune of "Oh, Susanna."

Those who know your name will trust in you. Yes, they will trust in
you, for you, Lord, nev - er have for - sak - en those who seek you.

ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story and to provide a springboard for discussion.

FOLLOWING. Play "Follow the Leader." Ask: "Can you follow the leader if you are not watching the leader?" Read and discuss Hebrews 12:2, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus." Read verse 3 to find out why. Discuss the story. Say: "When the blind men were healed, they followed Jesus."



LISTENING. Everyone sits in a circle with one person in the center, blindfolded. One person in the circle speaks, disguising his voice if he wants, saying: "Maybe I'm tall, maybe I'm small. Try to guess. Who am I?" The person in the center tries to guess who spoke. Then he trades places with that person and chooses a new person to speak. Talk about how the blind man learned things by listening. Discuss the Scripture. Talk about seeking Jesus.

GUESS THE SOUND. Make a recording of common sounds (water dripping, dog barking, phone ringing, hammer, typewriter, piano, door slam). Play these one at a time and let everyone guess what the sound is. Talk about how the blind men heard that Jesus was coming by and began to seek him.

MASKS. Make half-masks by cutting large paper plates in half. The mask fits over the eyes, round side up. Cut an arch along the straight side for the nose. Punch a hole in each side and tie string to the holes and around the person's head to hold the mask on. Mark where the eyes should go. With the mask off, cut U shapes for the eyes, leaving the top of the U attached. Fold along that line, so the eyes open and close. Everyone may color and decorate his mask, gluing on yarn hair, if he wants. Talk about the blind men seeking Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. Has anyone ever told you to be quiet? How do you think the blind men felt when people told them to be quiet? Should they have been quiet? Why or why not?
2. What does it mean to *seek* the Lord?
3. What did the blind men do after they were healed? How can you follow Jesus?

KIDS' COUNCIL

BRING IT HOME

- Read Psalm 9:10; 34:10; 105:4; Proverbs 8:17; and Jeremiah 29:13. What do these Scriptures say about seeking the Lord?
- Even though people see with their physical eyes, can they be blind in their spiritual eyes, in their hearts? How can you tell if someone's spiritual eyes are blind?
- Read Hebrews 12:2. What does it mean to *fix our eyes on Jesus*? How can you fix your eyes on Jesus each day?
- How will you seek the Lord this week?
- How can you help other people seek Jesus?

SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- Thank God for letting us find him whenever we seek him.
- Ask God to show us how to help others seek and find him.

ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- Read and discuss Psalm 9:10. Why would this be true? What are some names of God? Use your own words to describe the God you have found as you have sought him. Explain.
- Read and discuss Psalm 34:10. What is God's promise to you if you seek him?
- Read and discuss Psalm 105:4; Proverbs 8:17; and Jeremiah 29:13. What do these Scriptures have to say about seeking the Lord?
- Even though people see with their physical eyes, can they be blind in their spiritual eyes, in their hearts? How can you tell if someone's spiritual eyes are blind?
- Is there ever a time when a person can or should stop seeking the Lord? Explain.

SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

Hide and Snack. Bring small individual size bags of chips or pretzels and small boxes of juices. While the adults are meeting together, ask the children to hide one snack (a bag of chips and a box of juice) for each adult. When it's time for their snack, adults must *seek* their snack. Children can give them hints and tell them when they are close (hot) or far away (cold) from their snack. Talk about seeking Jesus.