DAY 2: I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT—LESSON (YOUTH)

Opening Video: Watch Opening Video for the day.

Opening Activity: Standing in the Need of Prayer
Listen to the song, "It's Me, It's Me, O Lord."
If your group would like to sing along, you may find the lyrics on page 352 of the United Methodist Hymnal, or search for them online.

Discussion
• Has anyone heard this song before?
• What do you think the song means?
• Have you ever experienced a time when you felt you were “standing in the need of prayer?”

Bible Story Introduction
Today, we’re going to be talking more about asking for what we need. We’re going to learn about Bartimaeus, a blind mind who shouted out to Jesus to ask for healing in order to become reconnected to his community.

Scripture
Read Mark 10:46-52 aloud. Set a 3-minute timer for discussion of initial reactions.

Discussion
• What did you find interesting in this story?
• What words or characters stood out to you?
• What is your first reaction to this story?

Exegesis (What’s the Story About?)
The story describes Bartimaeus as a beggar. This suggests that he did not have a home to go to. (Note that after Bartimaeus is healed, Jesus does not send him home, as he did other people he healed. After he received his sight, Bartimaeus followed Jesus.) Have you ever seen a person on the side of the road or outside of a store asking for help? A lot of times we ignore these people. Sometimes we cannot even look them in the eyes or acknowledge them.

When Bartimaeus cried out for help, people in the crowd did not just ignore him. They demanded him to be quiet. How unfortunate is that?! Compare this story to the one in Luke 5:17-39, where a group of people helped to bring a paralyzed man to Jesus for healing. The people were so determined to help this second man that, when they could not get through the crowd, they tore a hole in the roof and lowered him into the room where Jesus was. Unfortunately, those kinds of people were not around when Bartimaeus needed help.
But that did not stop Bartimaeus. When the people around told him to hush, he cried out even louder. Bartimaeus was determined—not afraid—to do whatever it took get what he needed. And his efforts paid off! We often look at this story and say that Jesus healed the man. However, in the Scripture, Jesus says that Bartimaeus's faith is what healed him. We cannot always wait for other people to help us. We must learn to speak up and help ourselves.

**Discussion**

- Why do you think people told Bartimaeus to be quiet?
- Do you find it easy to ask for help? Can you describe a time when you had to advocate for yourself?
- Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted. What does this teach us about helping others? Why didn't Jesus just heal Bartimaeus right away?

**Vital Vocabulary: Ableism**

Has anyone heard the term ableism? What does it mean?

Watch the video "Understanding Disabilities [2:41]" ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9Y6XMko9Jc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9Y6XMko9Jc)) on YouTube.

We just learned that ableism is discrimination against people who are disabled. This prejudice can be intentional or unintentional. Ableism comes from the assumption that there is an ideal or "normal" type of body and mind, and anyone who is different is not as valuable. Examples of ableism include stereotypes, stigmas, misconceptions, and generalizations about people with disabilities.

We are often unaware of the struggles that people with disabilities face. When we go out for dinner with friends, we may not think about whether the table will fit a motorized chair. We probably do not wonder if the menu is written in a font that is easy to read for someone with dyslexia.

It is important to remember that people with disabilities are not the problem. It is our society that makes it difficult for disabled people. As some disability activists say, people are not disabled because of some condition they have. They are disabled by a society that does not see or value them.

**Discussion**

- What is something you do very well? What is something that is more challenging for you but seems easy for others? How do you feel when you cannot do what others can?
- Think about the place we are in. How might this space disable certain people? What could we do to make it more accessible for people who are disabled?

**Additional Discussion Option: Avoiding "Trendy Activism"**

When Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted, Bartimaeus replied, "I want to see again." What if Bartimaeus's response was actually, "I want to be seen again?" As we discussed before, some people in our society are ignored. They are, in a sense, rendered invisible. Like Jesus, we should be willing "restore visibility" to those who are overlooked. We can amplify the voices of people who want to be heard.
At first when Bartimaeus cried out for help, people around told him to be quiet. But after Jesus acknowledged Bartimaeus, the people all of a sudden encouraged him to move forward. Throughout history, we see examples of people marginalized by society until it is unpopular to do so. People had been crying out about homophobia, police brutality, and violence against women decades before #LoveWins, #BlackLivesMatter, and #MeToo became popular. Why did we not listen to their cries before? Why are we just now seeing their humanity?

When people tried to silence Bartimaeus, Jesus stood up and acknowledged him. Sometimes, all it takes is for one person to stand up and do the right thing in order to change things. Just as it is important to advocate for ourselves, we must be willing to stand up for others, even when it goes against the popular opinion.

Discussion
- What do you want to speak up about?
- Who do you want to advocate for? What could that advocacy look like?
- Suggestions for topics to consider:
  - A need to include more youth input on church leadership and decisions.
  - Suggested changes to make church more accessible or inclusive.

Closing
Today’s theme was “I Have Something to Shout About.” We read about Bartimaeus, a man who was determined to get what he wanted. We recognized that society sometimes makes it difficult for people to access the things they need. We learned how to ask for help and to support others in their need.

Reflection (silent or shared depending on comfort of students)
- What are some things you need help with?
- How will you advocate for yourself this week?
- How will you stand up for others in need?

Closing Prayer
God of all, we are grateful for this time together. Help us to hear from you and from one another. Give us the courage to speak when you tell us. We want to follow the teachings of Jesus. Amen.

Resources to continue the conversation:
- https://kidstogether.org/ableism/
- https://educators4sc.org/teaching-about-ableism/

*If time allows, students can read Luke 5:17-39 and contrast the community responses to a man in need.*