

# THE STORY OF CREATION

## UNIT ONE: GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH

### Lesson 4: God said 'Let there be LIGHT!'

#### CONTENT:

1. God made everything out of nothing.[CCC338]
2. When God first made the earth, it was dark, and had no form. Then the Spirit moved over it and God said, 'Let there be light' and light was made.
3. God gave us light and colour and eyes to see everything because he loves us and wants to give us good things. [CCC353]
4. Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus and opened his eyes to see again. Bartimaeus praised God when he realized God's goodness.
- 😊 5. Praise means saying- You are great, you are good, you are wonderful. We too must praise God for light and colour and eyes to see with.

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Tell the story of Bartimaeus to your family.

REFERENCES: Gen. 1: 1-3; Mk 10:46-52; (also Luke 18:35-43) CCC 344, 338, 353.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, pencils and colours.

#### I. STARTER:

Close your eyes and cover them with your hands so that everything is dark. (Can you see black?) Keep your eyes closed and imagine...

When God first made the world, everything was dark and black. There was no colour. Nothing could be seen. The earth was just like a ball of dust and hot gases going round and round. There were no mountains or rivers, no trees or animals or people.

Then a strong wind moved over the earth. (*Make the sound of wind blowing*) It was the Holy Spirit! God began his work. He said, 'LET THERE BE LIGHT!' And there was light. (Open your eyes!) When light came then everything could be seen. And best of all, with light came colour!

#### II. DEVELOPMENT:

- God is a wonderful God... and very clever. He made light and colours and beautiful things and he also gave us eyes to see everything he made. Do we know why he did all this? Because he wants to give us good things and he wants to make us happy!
- There was once a man who couldn't see anything because he was blind. His name was Bartimaeus. Everything was dark for Bartimaeus. Close your eyes again and imagine how he felt. Everyone else could see the blue sky and white clouds and green trees and flowers of every colour. But poor Bartimaeus could only see BLACK! (Open your eyes).

Bartimaeus was also sad because no one wanted him for any work. He asked the farmer, "Can I help to feed the chickens and water the plants?" The farmer answered, "You'll be feeding the plants and watering the chickens! I don't want your help, blind man!"

He asked the bhajiwalla, "Can I help you sell your vegetables?" The bhajiwalla said "You'll be giving away tomatoes instead of potatoes, and people will rob all the money! No, thank you!"

Bartimaeus said to himself, "All I can do is beg!" He sat at the side of the road and covered himself with a shawl and put a begging bowl in front of him. As he sat there, he thought, "If I had eyes, how happy I would be. I would be able to see everything and I would be able to work like everyone else."

Then one day, when Bartimeus was sitting at his usual place with his big shawl over him, he heard many people talking and shouting and moving around. It sounded as if the whole town had come out on the road. He started calling out, “Money, money! Who will help a poor blind man?” A boy who was standing next to him said, “Shh! Don’t shout. Don’t you know who’s coming down the road?”

“I don’t know, tell me,” said Bartimaeus.

“Jesus is coming,” said the boy, “He makes sick people well and he tells wonderful stories.”

“Can he make blind people see again?” asked Bartimaeus.

“Maybe he can! You ask him!”

So Bartimaeus started shouting out as loud as he could, “Jesus, Jesus! Help me! Jesus.. have mercy on me!” (*He had a very loud voice!*) The big people around got angry with Bartimaeus. “Quiet, beggar! You are making too much noise!” But Bartimaeus would not stop. He thought, “Now’s my chance to see again! If Jesus hears me, he is sure to heal me!” He shouted even louder, “Jesus, Jesus, help me!”

Suddenly someone called out from far away. “Call the blind beggar. Jesus wants to meet him.” The little boy said, “Come on, get up, blind man. Jesus is calling you!” Bartimaeus jumped up and threw off his shawl. With the little boy’s help he reached the place where Jesus was. Then a hand touched his shoulder and a strong gentle voice said, “Tell me Bartimaeus, what do you want me to do for you?”

Bartimaeus thought, “I feel as if I know this voice! I know he loves me and wants to help me!”

He said, “Lord, please let me see again!” The kind voice said, “Yes, you may see again!”

Suddenly, Bartimaeus felt something hot in his eyes and he was able to open them. The dark black started becoming lighter. He could see shadows. Everything began to get brighter and brighter. And then...he saw...COLOURS! Blue sky and white clouds... green palm trees waving their branches above... He looked around and saw people smiling at him. And then best sight of all, he saw a kind, loving face in front of him, and he knew that it was Jesus... the one who had opened his eyes!

Happy tears rolled down his cheeks and he fell down before Jesus. As Jesus and his friends moved on, Bartimaeus followed behind him, dancing and shouting- “I can see! Jesus made me see! Praise God! Praise God!” When the people around heard and saw Bartimaeus, they also began to shout, “ Praise God! Praise God!”

### III. PRAYER:

(Give out handouts)

- What did Bartimaeus do after Jesus opened his eyes? (*He followed Jesus and praised God*)

Praise is saying – ‘You are great, you are good, you are wonderful!’

Do you ever praise God? It is good to praise God, because he is great and good and wonderful. He has given us light and colours and eyes to see with. Let’s praise God together.

(Make the sign of the cross and say the Prayer of Praise from the handout. If you can, put the words to music and sing it with actions. It can be sung to the tune of ‘Glad Am I to Live’)

### IV. ACTIVITY:

[Read the words of the activity sheet , while the children try to follow. They then draw whatever they think Bartimaeus saw when his eyes were opened: Jesus, people, clouds, trees, etc. Encourage them to use bright colours.]

#### Home Assignment:

Read the words on the handout at home.

Tell the story of Bartimaeus to your family.