

## ROCK PAPER SCISSORS GAME DIRECTIONS

### ASK/TELL (answers in parentheses)

- First, think of a doctor or a police officer.
- Now pretend that you saw them at the store.
- How would you know you were seeing a doctor or a police officer at a store? (maybe because of what they were doing and but mostly because of what they were wearing)
- What if I wore a police officer uniform? Do think someone might at first believe I was a police officer even though I'm not? (but of course!) I ask you these questions because often our clothes make people treat us a certain way.
- As you listen to today's scripture story about Jesus and Bartimaeus, listen for what clothing Bartimaeus takes off and leaves behind.

### READ Mark 10:46-52

*46 As Jesus, his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth passing by him, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' 48 Many people sternly ordered Bartimaeus to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' 49 Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And the disciples called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, Jesus is calling you.' 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to Bartimaeus, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' 52 Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately Bartimaeus regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way.*

### ASK (answers in parentheses)

- Did you hear what kind of clothing Bartimaeus threw off when Jesus called for him? (his cloak)
- That's right! The cloak that Bartimaeus was wearing helped other people know that he was a beggar and blind. Can you think of some clothes or accessories that help us know that someone is blind? (long stick, that's usually white and sometimes a seeing-eye dog)
- So when Bartimaeus took off his cloak, that was his way of saying that he was ready for a new identity. Do you know what an *identity* is? (an identity is who you or who others think you are; it's a combination of personality and characteristics).
- So a big part of Bartimaeus identity was that he was blind. What identity did Jesus give to Bartimaeus? (an identity of seeing; an identity of someone who was blind but could now see)

### TELL

So this idea of getting a different identity might seem a little strange to us. But we often change clothes and identities – just not as drastically as Jesus changed Bartimaeus' identity. We're going to play a game now where we're going to change identities each round.

### EXPLAIN Paper, Rock, Scissors Identity Game

- The way this works is that we need to get into two teams with an equal (or as close as possible) amount of people in each team.
- Before each round, each team will choose what identity they are going to be. A team can choose one of three identities. Those three identities are: Paper, Rock and Scissors.
- Once your team decides what your identity is going to be, then your team comes to the middle of the room where this rope is and you make a line parallel to that rope.
- Once both teams are lined up, I'll say, "Ready?" And then everyone will make a fist and raise it above the palm of their other hand.

- Then I'll say "paper" and you say it with me, then we'll say "rock" and then we'll say "scissors" and then I'll say "Go!"
- Each time we say a word, our fist should be hitting our palm. When I say GO, that's when each team shows their "identity" pose.
- If you chose Rock, you crouch down in ball. If you chose Paper, you put your arms out to the sides so that you look flat. If you chose scissors, you put your arms out in front of you and swing them up and down like you are cutting something.
- Rock beats scissors. Scissors beats Paper and Paper beats Rock.
- Let's say Team A shows the Scissors Identity and Team B shows the Rock identity. Who won? Team B, right?
- Once Team B sees that they won, they chase Team A. Once Team A sees that they lost, they run back to their base (marked by a rope or string).
- If a member from Team B tags a member of Team A before that person makes it back to base, then that member now joins Team B.
- First team to have everyone on their team, wins.
- After each round, each team determines what identity they're going to be for the next round. [If no team is winning, end the game somewhere between 3 to 5 minutes].

## **TELL**

We sometimes change our identity when our circumstances change, like in the game we just played. But our identity is also shaped by what people tell us. And even if someone is wrong about who they say we are, but they keep saying it, then we sometimes start to believe them.

## **Beach Ball Demonstration**

- Bartimaeus started out like this blown up beach ball [hold ball up]. Yep, he was blind, but he was filled with God's love and life.
- If things pushed in on him [push your hand into the side of the beach ball], he didn't let those things bother him [remove your hand from the side of the beach ball – it pops back to its original shape]. And he didn't let things get him down. He would just pop right up again [bounce the beach ball on the ground].
- But over the years, the people kept telling him things like, "You're a mistake. You're a burden. What did you do to become blind?" After awhile, these things started to get to Bartimaeus and he probably felt sad. [Using the nozzle, let about half the air out of the beach ball].
- Then when things pushed in on him [push your hand into the side of the beach ball], Bartimaeus was pretty bothered by those things [remove you hand from the side of the ball – it should stay indented] And when Bartimaeus felt down [drop the ball – it won't bounce], he wasn't able to pop right up and keep going.
- When he heard that Jesus was nearby, Bartimaeus knew he had a chance to be filled up with God's love and life again. So Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus. And Jesus tells him, "Your faith has made you whole." [blow up the beach ball again and bounce it around].

## **TELL**

- The Good News is that when we follow Jesus and learn to pay attention to God the way Jesus teaches us to, then we can receive healing like Bartimaeus did, where we can be filled again with God's love and life.
- Then by paying attention to God, instead of taking the air out others, we can be the ones who help others know who they are and we can help fill others with God's love and life.