Evangelism (Be a Big Mouth)

Lesson 3: A Blind Date

**Lessons in this series:** [1](http://www.teensundayschool.com/39/lesson/come-and-see.php) [2](http://www.teensundayschool.com/40/lesson/go-and-tell.php) **3**[4](http://www.teensundayschool.com/94/lesson/make-room-for-jesus.php) [5](http://www.teensundayschool.com/96/lesson/where-do-we-go-from-here.php)

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Goals

1. To develop in students a new passion for evangelism
2. To motivate students to help—not hinder—the spiritually blind
3. To give students eyes to see the lost

Topics

Boldness, Evangelism, Light, Truth, Witnessing

Scripture Memorization

Luke 18:39

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GROUP BUILDING (10 minutes)

**Helping the Blind See (Activity)**

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| Topics:Evangelism, Light, Sharing, Testimony, Truth, WitnessingMaterials:Copies of handout (At the bottom of this document)Duration:Approximately 10 minutes  |  help the  blind see |

What you do during class:

Give each person a copy of the handout, which contains two stories about two individuals who were lost and blind to the truth, but came to know Jesus through the efforts of one youth pastor. These are true stories, but the names have been changed.

Break up into small groups of about 4 or 5. Have each person read both stories, then discuss the questions that follow with the other members of their small group.

After about 10 minutes, have everyone come together again. If time permits discuss the following questions as a class.

 **Additional Discussion Questions**

• Are there people who you feel don’t deserve the gospel?
• Are there people who you think are a waste of your time?
• Are there people that you view as “too far gone”?

GETTING STARTED (10 minutes)

Today we’re going to try something a little different, a little weird. Since today’s scripture is about a blind man who meets Jesus, I really want you to understand what it is like to be blind. To do this, I have a few tasks that I would like you to do, only you have to do them with your eyes completely closed. No peeking. Before we get started, get a piece of paper and a pen or pencil handy.

Here are the simple tasks to do in order, but not until I say "Go". And remember, your eyes must be closed.
1.  Somewhere on your workbook, or a piece of notebook paper, draw a dog, any dog.
2.  Remove your left shoe and then put it back on again making sure to re-tie, re-buckle, or re-fasten it correctly.
3.  Stand up, move three steps from your chair, then go back and sit down again.
4.  Take your pen or pencil and put a circle around the dog.

Is everyone ready? Close your eyes, Go!

**Discussion Questions:**
• What was hard about that experience?
• What do you think it would be like to be totally blind? How would you get through life?
• Do any of you know anyone who is blind? What is that person's life like?

DIGGING IN (30 minutes)

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| **Teaching Notes on Luke 18:35-43**There are complimentary accounts to this passage, found in Matthew 20 and Mark 10, with some variation in the details. • Matthew mentions two blind men; Luke and Mark only mention one• Matthew & Mark say the man was healed as he left Jericho; Luke says it was as he arrived• Some scholars believe this is the same healing that occurs in Matthew 9, where the same thing is said to Jesus,  “Son of David, have mercy on me,” but this is highly unlikelySo we can focus on application rather than textual variants or discrepancies, we will only examine Luke's account. |

Today we’re going to break down a passage of scripture that talks about a blind man who meets Jesus. The truth is, we all know blind people. They might be able to see physically, but spiritually they don’t see the truth. The question is, are you helping them see the Light, or pushing them farther from the Truth? Let’s take a look at the story.

**Read Luke 18:35-43**

**Discussion Questions:**1. Can someone retell the story for us in your own words?
2. Besides the obvious, what else is going on here?

 **Read again Luke 18:35-38.**

**Discussion Questions**:
1. What do you think being a beggar would have been like in those days? What would be most difficult for a beggar?

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|  **The Beggar Man was…**• A social outcast• Presumed unclean because of his affliction• Completely blind, unable to see anything• Poor, unable to work for money so had to beg to stay alive• Very desperate, he sets himself up for embarrassment by calling out loud to Jesus |

The blind man was blind, but not deaf. As Jesus and His followers moved past, the blind man inquired as to what all the commotion was all about. All he needed to know was that Jesus was passing by.

2. How did the blind man respond to the news? *(Cried out for mercy and help.)*3. How did the blind man know who Jesus was? *(Word of mouth, rumors, etc.)*

**Read again Luke 18:39

Discussion Questions:**1. What did the people say to the blind man? *(They told him to stay quiet.)*2. Why do you think the people said that?
3. If you had been the blind man, what would you have done in response to their rebuke?
4. What was his response?*(He shouted even louder.)*

We may never know the real motives behind the crowd telling the beggar to be quiet, but the fact is, if they had it their way, the man would have never known sight.

**Read again Luke 18:40-43**

**Discussion Questions:**1. What does Jesus say?*(He asks him what he wants.)
2*. Do you think Jesus knew what he wanted? Why, then, did He ask the man? *(To test his faith, to give the man a voice among the people.)
3*. How do you think the blind man felt when Jesus asked, “What can I do for you?”

Jesus gives the man back his sight, based on his faith, and the man rejoices. The crowd goes nuts, too, praising God for what He has done. That result is no surprise, and when it comes to us being a big mouth, it’s not what Jesus does that is in question—it’s what we’re willing to do.

MAKING IT REAL (10 minutes)

The past couple of weeks, we’ve talked about methods of bringing people closer to Jesus, and that is the goal of evangelism. But are you aware that sometimes you can keep people from Christ with your words? That’s certainly true here. When it comes to being a big mouth, saying something is not always the issue. Sometimes, *what we say* is much more crucial.

We have to be willing to ask ourselves, are we like the crowd from our story telling the beggar to be quiet?

Ask yourselves these questions:

• Do you, either accidentally or purposefully, using pure or tainted motives, keep others from Christ?
• Are there people who you feel don’t deserve the Gospel?
• Are there people who you think are a waste of your time?
• Are there people that you view as “too far gone”?

*(Unfortunately, the answer to those questions for most people is yes. We view some people as too bad to hear the Gospel, as too different from us for us to reach, and as just a waste of our time.)*

You can keep people from Jesus with words, looks, and behavior. If you do that, their salvation is on you. You pass by people every day who don’t know Christ but crave His presence in their lives. Their souls are crying out “Heal me, Jesus!” and we tell them to be quiet, Jesus is too busy for them. We are guilty, plain and simple. And it's time to put a stop to it.

Jesus said to the blind beggar, "What can I do for you?"

• What can Jesus do for others?
• Are there any limits to how He can do it?
• Is there anyone He can’t do it for?
• Do you really believe that?

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

Helping the Blind See

Meet some modern-day, blind beggars who just needed to be touched by Jesus to see the light.

Read both stories about two individuals who were lost and blind to the truth, but came to know Jesus through the efforts of one youth pastor. Then, discuss the questions that follow with the other members of your small group.

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| His name was Trevor, but for some reason everyone called him Hefty. He was well known in his small town because he was a star on the local high school football team. And he was good. In fact, Hefty played football in college after he graduated.Hefty joined a Flag Football league his church put on, but he never came to church. He was known as quite the partier, and didn’t really consider spiritual things.One day, Hefty was in a boating accident. He was hurt pretty badly, and it got him to thinking. One February morning, he showed up at church with a friend from school. It was Super Bowl weekend, and he showed up at the youth group’s Super Bowl party that night.Something began to happen in Hefty’s life, and the youth minister had the privilege of talking to him about Jesus. It took a lot of time and energy, but Hefty became convinced that he needed to accept Christ and be baptized.Hefty was, well, hefty. He was a thick offensive lineman, weighing about 260 pounds. It was not easy getting him in the water and out, but seeing the change in his life was well worth it.This youth minister never thought twice about the man hours invested in Trevor. No-one, not even Trevor was too lost for Jesus. He was blind, but now he sees, because he was not shoved away.   |

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| Amelia was a troubled kid in the parking lot of a gas station when a young youth minister first met her. Two of his friends had been talking with her for an hour or so, and they just about had her talked in to attending a local youth rally they were helping to put on.She came to the rally that night, and afterwards, with a cigarette hanging from her mouth, the friends shared Christ with her.She came back the next night, and everyone learned more about her. Her family was torn apart. Drugs were common in her house, and she had done them herself. She was very, very rough around the edges. School was not a focus of her attention at all.But at the end of that week, Amelia began to blossom. She accepted Christ, and the suicide attempts and drug-induced lifestyle she had once lived were replaced with the joy of the Lord and the passion to reach her lost family members.Some would say Amelia was a lost cause, too far gone. However, she really was a modern-day beggar who just needed to be touched by Jesus. Some would try to keep her from Christ, but Jesus desired her heart, and He got it. She once was blind, but now she can see.  |

**Group Discussion Questions:**

• Have you ever seen or witnessed a similar story? Explain
• What do you think would have happened if Trevor or Amelia had been pushed away from Christ?
• Why is it difficult to welcome people like them into your church?
• Can you see why some people ignore people like Trevor or Amelia? Why?
• Who do you know, like Trevor or Amelia, whom you may be ignoring or keeping at arms-length?