

# Never Stop Seeking Him

## (Participant Notes)

### Group Time

#### Introduction

In the classic, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, by John Bunyan, the writer says this:

As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place where was a den, and laid me down that place to sleep; and as I slept I dreamed a dream: I saw a man clothed with rags standing in a certain place . . . a book in his hand, and a great burden on his back . . . as he read, he wept and trembled and he cried out, "What shall I do?"

The man who is walking is a Christian. He is seeking to know the Lord and he is at a loss as to how he will survive the journey. In fact, he even asks, "What shall I do?" As adult Christians, we will run into young people who are asking the same; and we have the opportunity, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to assist them on their journey. Isaiah 55:6 says this: "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near." Let's do just that and help others do the same.

#### Discussion Questions and Leader Notes

1. Take turns reading Mark 10:46-52. Where was Bartimaeus sitting and what did he suffer from? Notice how twice at the end of Mark 10, the word *regain* is used: What does this tell you about Bartimaeus? Though Bartimaeus was physically blind, in what way is blindness often used as a metaphor in the Bible? Share your story of when your spiritual "blindness" was healed and how you responded; or a time when you walked away from the Lord and he gracefully called you back.

Related scriptures: Isaiah 6:8-10, 2 Corinthians 3:13-14, and 2 Corinthians 4:4.

**2.** Referring to Mark 10:46-52, what is it that Bartimaeus cried out two times, that may indicate he was not spiritually blind? Read John 9:39-40. What is ironic in this passage, considering what Bartimaeus said? Read Matthew 23:1-3 and 25-26. How does our knowledge of Christ increase our responsibility to obey God? What does it look like to run to God, as Bartimaeus did?

**3.** Take turns reading John 9. Describe the formerly blind man's experience and behavior after he was healed. The blind man in John 9, Bartimaeus, and a paralyzed man in Matthew 9 all received Jesus' miracle, and saw it as proof that he was from God. Think of what it meant at the time to go around sharing the miracle of sight, both physically and spiritually. What is our witness if we have not been physically healed? Is testifying of God's love and mercy to the younger generation something you are comfortable doing? Why or why not?

**4.** Turn to Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:4-9. What do these passages have in common? Read Deuteronomy 4:6-9. What did God commission the Jews to do? Discuss how we can be witnesses to the next generation, of God's grace and as teachers of his word.

## **Taking it Home**

### **Going Deeper**

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### **Memory Verse**

Deuteronomy 4:9: “But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren” (NLT).

### **Notes**

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