

# IMAGINATIVE PRAYER GUIDE COMPASSION



Question: **What does God want to do for you when you're hurting, sad, or in need?**

Answer: **God has compassion on me and wants to help me.**

**Begin with prayer.** Invite the Holy Spirit to come. Invite him to meet you as you open your imagination up to him.

Mark 10:46–52 tells us about a time when Jesus had *compassion* on someone and helped them. We're going to put ourselves in the story so we can experience the compassion of Jesus.

- Get in a comfortable position where you're not bothered by anyone else. Close your eyes so you won't be distracted by anything around you. Focus in on the sound of my voice, and try to imagine everything I describe as happening to you. Think carefully about how you feel in each situation.
- Try to imagine what it would be like if you couldn't see. What if you couldn't see the stars at night, or watch the clouds in the daytime? What if you couldn't even tell the difference between night and day? What if you couldn't see what *you* look like?
- Now, imagine that your name is Bar-ti-mae-us. You can't see—you're blind. And because you can't see, you can't get a job. So, you make a living by sitting at the side of the road begging for money from people who pass by.

## From Mark 10:46–52: Jesus Heals a Blind Man

One day, as usual, you're sitting beside the road, begging for money from the people who walk by. You haven't eaten at all today. "Please," you cry out, "Can you spare a few coins for a poor blind man?" The sun is hot today, and the sky is dark blue, but you can't see the blue sky or the bright clothing people are wearing. You can, however, hear the *slap, slap* of their feet on the path, and hear how the sound of their voices rises and falls; and you can certainly taste the grit of the dust they kick up as they pass you, leaving you there like a broken sandal on the side of the road.

*How does it feel to sit there in the hot sun without being able to see? How does it feel when many of them walk by without noticing you? How does it feel when someone drops a few coins into your cup?*

Suddenly, the voices change—they're rising with excitement. The feet begin to hurry. Finally, someone says that Jesus, the healer from Nazareth, will soon be walking by. Your heart begins to beat a little faster. Is this your chance? You pound your staff on the ground and shout, "Jesus, Son of David, please help me!"

*What are you feeling now?*

Many voices insist that you be quiet. They say, "Hush, man! Don't draw attention like that! Be quiet or we'll give you something to shout about!"

*How do those words make you feel?*

You ignore them. Jesus must hear you! So, you shout even louder, "Jesus, Son of David, please help me!"

Now, the crowd grows quiet. You strain your ears to hear what's happening. From down the road you hear a voice say kindly, "Tell him to come here."

*What do you feel when you hear that?*

Many people call you. It's a jumble of voices, and at first you can't understand what they are telling you to do. At last someone crouches down beside you and whispers in your ear, "Be happy now. Stand up! Jesus is calling

you.” So, you stand up quickly, leaving your coat where you sat, and let them lead you to Jesus.

*What are you feeling as they lead you to Jesus?*

The voice of Jesus is gentle, so full of kindness and compassion. He asks, “Friend, what do you want me to do for you?” The answer spills out of you, “Teacher, I want to see again.”

And then, you can almost feel him smile. His warm hand is on your shoulder as he answers, “Go. You’re healed because you believed.”

Hope surges into your heart, immediately followed by joy when light bursts upon your eyes and the face of Jesus comes clearly into focus. His eyes are warm and brown above a great big grin. Overwhelmed, you look around at a crowd of smiling, amazed people, and realize that you are grinning, too.

You run back to get your coat, and as Jesus turns to go, you follow him down the road.

*What did it feel like to suddenly see again—to have the darkness driven away by the light? Is this a feeling you would ever forget? Why or why not?*

*Why did Jesus heal you?*

*What is something you know about Jesus that you didn’t know before?*