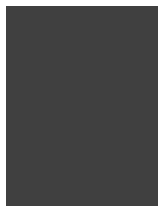


ON THE SIDELINES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

August 13, 2023
"On the Sidelines"



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we ask that you open our minds as we reflect on the story and faith of Bartimaeus. Allow us to be open to thinking how your design for our lives is much larger than our own. We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Mark 10:46-52 (NIV)

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

⁵² "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

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INTRODUCTION

Have you ever felt as if you're on the sidelines in life? Do we notice others who are? The experience of Bartimaeus in Mark's Gospel gives insight into our experiences and faith in Pastor Evelyn's message this Sunday "On the Sidelines".

QUESTIONS

1. Do you tend to be patient or impatient? How does that tendency affect your relationships and the way you deal with your circumstances?
2. Why is it so tempting for people in the midst of difficult circumstances to compare their lives to others' lives? What are some of the downsides of making those comparisons?
3. Jesus' disciples were focused on the man's problem. Have you ever treated a person like a problem to be solved?
4. Talk about a time when you've asked, "Why is this happening to me?" What did you do to manage the circumstances that caused you to ask that question? What was the result?
5. It's been said, "when you focus on what's wrong, you lose sight of what God makes right." Respond to that statement. Based on your own experiences, does it seem true? Why or why not?

FINAL APPLICATION

How do you think your life would be different if you could embrace the thought that your idea of making something right may not be God's idea of making something right?