

THE MAN BORN BLIND

New Testament Lesson #67

Jesus' disciples saw a man who had been born blind. They asked Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered that the man's blindness was not the result of sin, but so that God's works could be shown in this man.

Jesus then spat on the ground, made mud and smeared it on the eyes of the blind man. Jesus told him to go wash in the pool of Siloam (si-LO-am). The man did as Jesus instructed. Suddenly he could see.

When he came back, the people who'd seen him before wondered whether he was really the same man. The man explained how he'd gained his sight. When they asked him where Jesus was, he said he didn't know.

The people took the healed man to the Pharisees. He explained to them what had happened. They didn't believe him until they called his parents. The parents confirmed that he was their son and that he had indeed been born blind, but they didn't know how he could now see. They told the Pharisees to ask their son themselves.

So the Pharisees called the man again, telling him to "Give glory to God!" because, they said, they knew Jesus was a sinner. The man replied, "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." He added that since God does not listen to sinners, but obviously did listen to Jesus – and gave him the power to give sight – Jesus could not be a sinner. The Pharisees arrogantly accused him of trying to teach them, the religious leaders, and drove him out.

Later, Jesus found the man and asked him whether he believed in the Son of Man. He asked Jesus who the Son of Man was so that he could worship him. Jesus replied, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." The man professed his belief and fell down and worshiped Jesus.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- "Rabbi" is the Hebrew term for "my Teacher," transliterated into Greek.
- Many of the Jews of that day believed in a close correlation between sin and suffering.
- The more this man was questioned, the more he realized about the one who healed him. Note his answers: "The man called Jesus made mud ..." (v. 11). "He is a prophet" (v.17). "... though I was blind, now I see" (v. 25). "If this man were not from God, he could do nothing" (v. 33). "Lord, I believe" (v. 38).
- The Pharisees were an influential Jewish sect that emphasized strict observance of the Law of Moses in both its oral and written forms. The word "Pharisee" means "separated."

The Man Born Blind

- I. The disciples of Jesus saw a blind man.
 - A. They asked Jesus whose sin was responsible for the blindness – the man's or his parents'.
 - B. Jesus said the blindness was not the result of sin.
 - C. He added that God's works could be shown in the man.
- II. Jesus healed the man and told him to wash his eyes in a certain pool.
 - A. The man obeyed.
 - B. People who knew the man then wondered if he was really the same man.
 - C. He told them how Jesus had healed him.
 - D. When people asked where Jesus was, he didn't know.
- III. The people took the healed man to the Pharisees.
 - A. He told them what had happened.
 - B. They didn't believe him and called his parents.
 - C. His parents didn't know about the healing.
- IV. The Pharisees called Jesus a sinner.
 - A. They said God deserved the praise for the healing.
 - B. The man defended Jesus.
 - C. The Pharisees were furious that the man was trying to teach them.
 - D. They drove the man out.

ANSWER KEY:

Jesus, man, blind, Jesus, spat, ground, mud, spread, eyes, blind, man, go, wash, pool, Siloam, could, see

Use the Braille alphabet to finish the story.

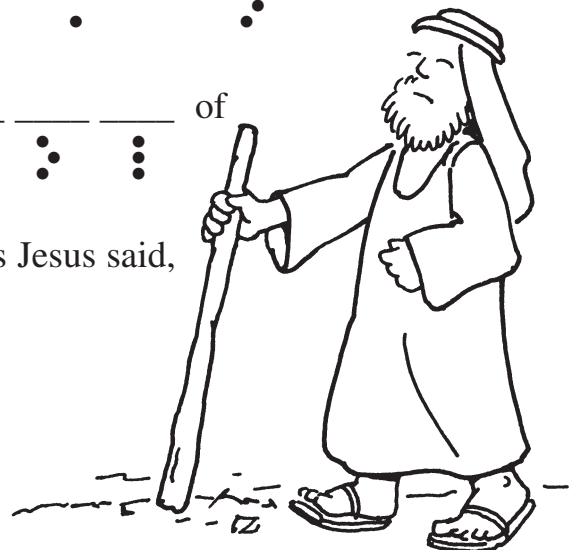
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_____ met a _____ born _____.

_____ on the _____.

He made _____. Then He _____ the mud on the _____ of the _____. Jesus told him to _____ in the _____ of _____.

_____ When the man did as Jesus said, he _____ !



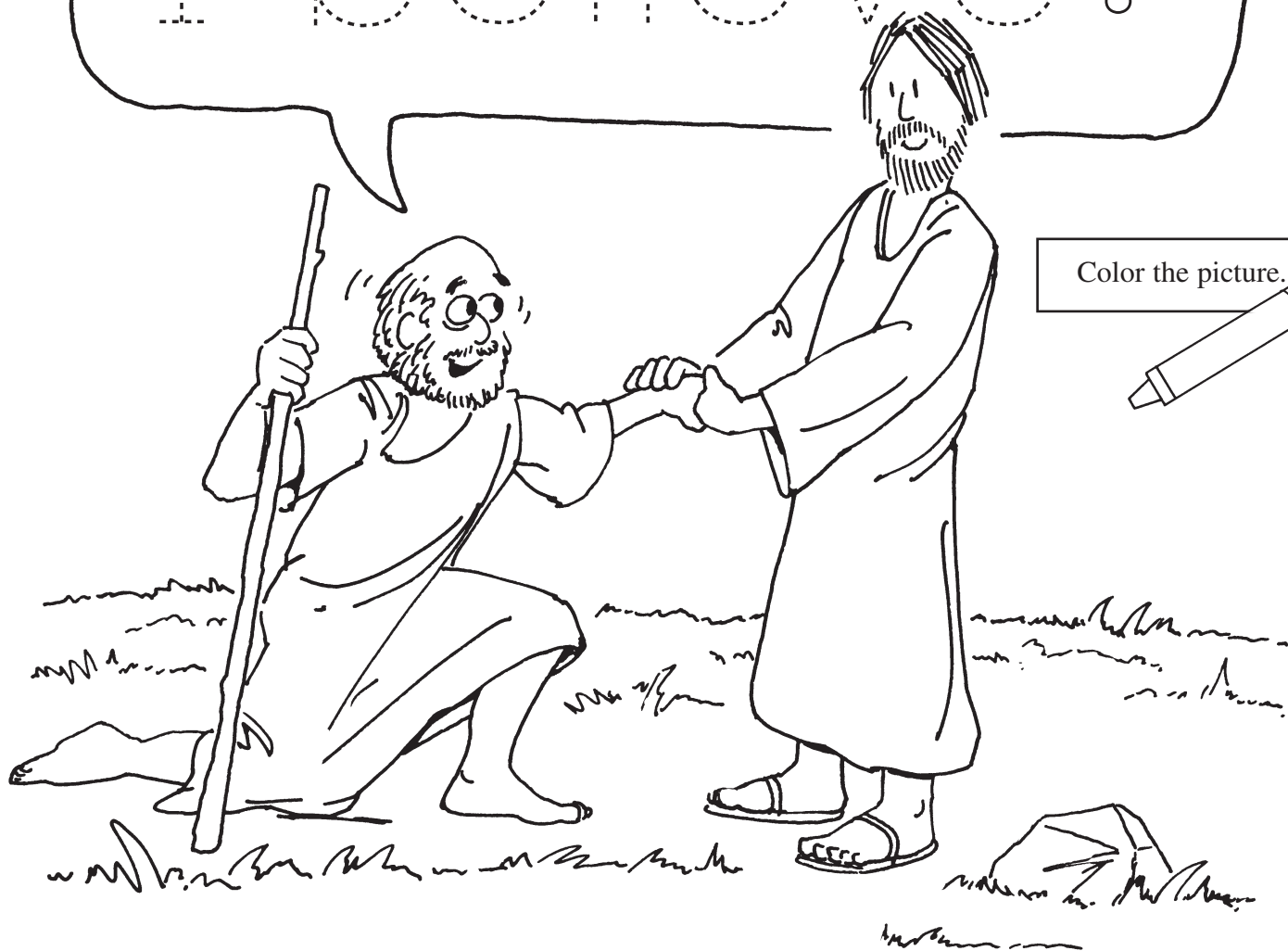
Name _____

The Pharisees didn't believe the story of the man who had been blind. They accused the man of trying to teach THEM! They drove him away. Jesus talked to him again.

Trace the words that the blind man said.

Lord,
I believe!

Color the picture.



Name _____