



Here We Come!

Play a hiding game. Show the children an object. Then have them close their eyes and cover them tightly with their hands. No peeking. Move around the room to several locations, leaving the object at one of them. Say, "Open your eyes! Can you see the _____?" How do their eyes help? What part does sound play?

Open Our Eyes

The mind must also be open for the eyes to see.

Scripture Words

I was blind. Now I see!
—John 9:25 NRSV
adapted

Scripture Words and Worship

Print the scripture words on a face with the eyes covered. (I was blind.) Flip up the covering so the eyes show. (Now I see!) Let the children tell you what they know about being blind.

Live and Learn

The story of the blind man and Jesus found in John 9:1–41 can be told while moving from place to place around the classroom. Start in one corner of the room and move to different corners for the different scenes. Sometimes there will only be one line of the story told at each place before moving on to the next one.

- Jesus and the disciples were walking along in the city.
- Jesus saw a blind man.
- The disciples saw the blind man.
- Jesus walked over to the blind man. He mixed some mud and put it on the blind man's eyelids. "Now go and wash your face," Jesus told him.
- The blind man felt his way along the street until he came to a pool of water. There he washed his eyes.
- The blind man hurried back to find Jesus. But he didn't have to feel his way along the street. He could see!
- The neighbors saw the man with his eyes open. "Can this be the same man who has always been blind?"
- The religious leaders, called Pharisees, saw the man with his eyes open. "How did this happen?" they wondered.
- The blind man told his story. He told about what Jesus said and what he did. But the people didn't believe him.
- "Let's go ask his mother and father," they decided. They walked to his house and called to his parents. "Is this your son? Is this your boy who was born blind? If so, how can he see now?"
- The parents answered, "Of course he's our son. But we don't know how it is that he can see. He could never see before. You'll have to ask him."
- The neighbors and the religious leaders asked the man again about his sight, and he told them the story of what Jesus had done.
- "But how did Jesus do it?" they asked.
- "I just told you. If you were listening, you would be amazed. Do you want to follow Jesus too?"
- Some of the people got mad at the man and chased him away. They didn't want to do things like Jesus did.
- The man, who could now see, looked and looked for Jesus. When he found him, he walked along with Jesus and the disciples. He was glad Jesus had come into the world to help people see.

Story Talking

Through the Eyes of Woo by Marge Nelson

Woo knew where to go for the best view. Whenever he wanted to see something better, he would run to the nearest adult with his arms out, saying, "Up!" Woo had been doing this since he was a little baby. Then all he could do was reach out, point, and make assorted sounds. Whatever he was saying, it seemed to work, as someone would always pick him up and say, "Can you see now, Woo?"

Woo also discovered this worked for getting closer to something he wanted. From his view in the arms of the grownup, he would spot something he wanted and reach for the person closest to that object. He would be passed from hand to hand, person to person, until he could touch what he was after. This was one of Woo's favorite games.

Now he was nearly two and no longer had to just make noises. He had discovered that people responded in certain ways to specific sounds he made. "Up" got him lifted to a point where he could see something other than feet, legs, or knees of people around him.

Woo liked what he could see. There was so much color and activity. Woo never tired of using his eyes to see things he had seen before as well as what he had never seen.

And so he was surprised when he woke up one morning to a dark room. Something was wrong. Usually when Woo woke up, he opened his eyes and looked around at all the wonderful things in his room. But for some reason this morning, nothing was happening. His eyes seemed to be stuck shut. He rubbed his eyes. Something felt bumpy and scratchy and made his eyes hurt. When Woo finally opened his eyes, everything he could see was blurry.

Woo used his second favorite sound. "Mommy!"

"What's the matter, Woo?" Then Mom got this look on her face. Even with blurry eyes, Woo could see her expression. He didn't like that look much, because Mom always seemed to quit smiling when she wore that face. But it did mean Woo would soon be getting a lot of attention.

Mom was looking at his eyes and making soothing noises. She was calling for Dad to bring something. Woo reached up to rub his eyes again, but his mother took his hands and held them away from his face. Dad handed her a washcloth and she began to work on Woo's eyes. He closed them and felt the warmth and gentleness as his mother bathed his eyes. He heard his parents use words like "infection" and "irritation," whatever that was.

After a few minutes Mom quit washing his face and Woo opened his eyes. His mom still looked worried, but he could see her face much better now. Woo looked to the side and saw his toys. He reached for a favorite and picked it up. At the same time his father reached down and picked him up. "Can you see now, Woo?" came the familiar question. Woo nodded. What he saw next made him smile from ear to ear. The look that came over the faces of his parents was beautiful! Woo had seen that look many times before, usually right before the hugging started.

This time was no different. Father hugged his little pajama-clad child and Mother wrapped her arms around both of them. Woo laughed and pointed toward the kitchen. "He's going to be alright," said his mother with a sigh. "Absolutely," said Dad. "That's his sign for 'Where's the food?'"

Sense-ations

Have an assortment of familiar and unusual fruits available.

Let the children tell you about trips to the store or market to buy fruit. What kinds are their favorites? Display these as they are mentioned. Sample the fruits.

Talk about the more unusual fruits that may not be native to your area, but can be found in stores. A carambola or star fruit is an elongated yellowish orange fruit. Slice it in cross sections and it looks like a star. Pomegranates have a multitude of seeds inside when cut open. A kiwi fruit has a fuzzy brown outside and a sweet green inside dotted with tiny black seeds.

Up and at 'Em

If you haven't been moving around with the story, do some activities that involve large motor movements.

Moving Music

- "Hands on Shoulders" (page 19)
- "This Little Light of Mine" (page 40)
- "If You're Happy" (page 40)

There We Go

Use the picture in the pattern section, page 50, to help the children remember the story about Woo. They can draw things around him that they think he would enjoy seeing.



Draw lines to the things Woo can see.

