



## Spontaneous Drama

The two Bible stories will be acted out spontaneously side by side in a dramatic way. No rehearsal is needed, as the person leading will direct volunteers what to do and say. The 'actors' (either children or adults) will form a crowd and be called forward spontaneously as the drama unfolds, however you may wish to give prior thought to who you might like to invite to play the following roles:

- Jesus
- The blind beggar
- Zacchaeus

The following props are required:

- A sleep mask or blindfold
- A white sheet or shawl for Jesus
- A chair

If you have technology, display **PPT Slides 12-13** from **BSG24 All-Age PPT Slides** at the appropriate points.

### Leader:

One town called Jericho. The same community, the same streets, and quite possibly some of the same people in the crowds. Yet two different stories. And two different people. As we watch them acted out side by side this morning, I would like you to try and spot the differences between them.

As we approach the city, we notice a crowd. **Invite children (or adults) to come forward and form a crowd.**

This is where we meet the first man in our two Bible stories – a blind beggar, sitting by the side of the road on the outskirts of the city. **PPT Slide 12 Invite someone from the crowd to be a blind beggar. Give them a blindfold or sleep mask. Invite them to sit and hold out their hands as though begging.**

The blind beggar sat on the street in the darkness. He could not see Jesus in the crowd. Nor could he see those who followed Jesus and walked with him. But his other senses were strong! He could hear that something exciting was happening! What was all that noise? **Encourage the blind beggar to hold up a hand to their ear.**

He called out and asked what was going on. **Ask the blind beggar to shout, "What is happening?" then ask the crowd to shout, "It's Jesus of Nazareth passing by!"**

Jesus was coming to Jericho! How exciting! **Pause to pick a Jesus, perhaps wrapping a white shawl or sheet around them as a sign of holiness.**

The roar of the crowd got louder the nearer Jesus came. When the blind beggar heard Jesus of Nazareth passing by **Jesus should walk near the beggar** he cried out as loud as he could, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” **Ask the beggar to shout these words.**

Some of the people in the crowd didn’t like this! They told the blind man to be quiet! **Encourage the crowd to hold a finger to their mouth and say ‘Shhhh’.**

But this didn’t put the blind beggar off. Absolutely nothing would stop him from reaching out to Jesus. He shouted even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ **Invite beggar to say this even more loudly.**

Jesus stopped. **Ask Jesus to stop.**

He didn’t stop to tell the beggar off or to scold him. He stopped because he wanted to meet him! Jesus told some people to bring the blind beggar over to him **Ask two children from the crowd to lead the beggar by the arm to Jesus.**

When the blind man was getting near, Jesus looked at him and asked, “What do you want me to do for you?” **Ask Jesus to repeat these words.**

The blind beggar replied, “Lord, I want to see!” **Ask beggar to repeat these words.**

Immediately Jesus healed the man’s eyes. **Ask Jesus to remove the sleep mask/blindfold.**

The beggar was no longer blind! He could see Jesus! immediately he left the side of the road and followed Jesus, thanking him and praising God for what he had done for him. **Ask the beggar to shout, “Thank you, thank you!” and raise his hands in the air or do a wee dance.**

When they saw what had happened, the crowd too started to praise God. **Encourage the crowd to whoop or shout hooray.**

**Pause at this point. Ask the blind beggar to sit down stage left, telling them they will be needed a bit later on.**

**Invite the rest of the children to move to stage right (or move forward if there is not enough space) to continue with the next part of the Bible passage.**

We will now meet our second Bible character. Having healed the blind beggar, Jesus then walked on, the crowd still following him, and entered the city of Jericho **Jesus and the crowd walk around.** It is here we meet the very rich chief tax collector called Zacchaeus, who happened to be a very short man. **Choose a Zacchaeus. PPT Slide 13**

The bustling crowd came closer to see Jesus. Everyone wanted to see him! **Gather the children closely around Jesus.**

Zacchaeus wanted to have a look and see who Jesus was too, but because he was short, he could not see over the crowd. **Zacchaeus should jump up and down trying to see Jesus over the crowd.**

Wanting to see Jesus, he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to try and catch sight of him as he was coming that way. **Zacchaeus could stand on a chair, pretending it is a tree.**

As Jesus reached the tree, he looked up at Zacchaeus. **Jesus should stop and look up.**

To Zacchaeus' great surprise, Jesus spoke to him. He said, 'Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today.' **Ask Jesus to say these words.**

Instantly, two things happened. The first is that Zacchaeus scrambled down the tree as quickly as he could. **Zacchaeus acts this out.** Jesus was coming to his house! How exciting!

The second is that the crowd began to grumble. They were surprised and annoyed that Jesus would pay attention to someone as sinful as Zacchaeus. **The crowd should look grumpy and point to or shake their fists at Zacchaeus.** They said, 'This man is a sinner! And yet Jesus is going to visit him in his house!'

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to Jesus, "Here and now I give half my money to the poor!" **Ask Zacchaeus to repeat this.** He went on to say that if he had cheated anyone (which he had!) he was going to return *four times* as much as he had taken! **Invite Zacchaeus to mime giving out money.**

Jesus smiled and told the crowd he had come to seek and to save those who were lost:

People just like Zacchaeus... **Ask Jesus to stand beside Zacchaeus. Ask Zacchaeus to look really, really happy.**

People like the blind beggar... **Ask Jesus to stand beside the blind beggar, who should now stand up.**

### **PPT Slide 14**

The blind beggar... Zacchaeus... and people like you and me.

*Thank the children who took part and say we are going to pause to sing. Invite the beggar and Zacchaeus to sit down where they are at the front, while everyone else returns to their seats.*