



Leader's Guide for "Courage to Cry Out"

Mark 10:46-52 | Pastor Dave Bennett | Series: Courage to Reach

Session Overview

This week's discussion highlights the courage it takes to cry out to Jesus with honesty and vulnerability, even when the world tells us to be silent. Drawing from the story of Blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46–52, Pastor Dave explores how faith involves both persistence and surrender. When Bartimaeus casts off his cloak—the very thing that provided comfort and protection—he models what it looks like to approach Jesus without pretense, trusting Him fully. Encourage your group to reflect on the barriers that keep them from calling out to Jesus and what it might look like to let those go.

Session Flow (60–75 minutes)

1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10 min)

- **Example Question:** "What's something in your life that you find hard to ask for help with—and why?"
- **Purpose:** To open conversation about vulnerability and how asking for help often challenges our pride and comfort zones.

2. Scripture Reading (5 min)

- Read **Mark 10:46–52** aloud.
- Optional: Have a volunteer read it again in another translation (NLT or The Message) to emphasize the emotion in Bartimaeus' cry.

3. Discussion (40–50 min)

- Use 6–8 of the following questions depending on time and group size.
 - Encourage honesty and connection through personal reflection.
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Discussion Questions

1. **Pastor Dave shared that we all wear “outer garments”—facades or masks we create to protect ourselves. What are some modern examples of these “garments,” and why do we put them on?**

Leader Note: Encourage discussion around emotional, social, or spiritual barriers people hide behind. Help identify how these can block authentic connection with God and others.

2. **Bartimaeus was told to be quiet by the crowd, yet he cried out even louder. What does his persistence teach us about prayer and faith in the face of resistance?**

Leader Note: Emphasize perseverance in prayer—how God honors those who continue calling on Him even when it feels awkward, lonely, or discouraged.

3. **Bartimaeus threw off his cloak before approaching Jesus. What might that act symbolize in your own life?**

Leader Note: Discuss how shedding layers of comfort, control, or pride opens us to real transformation. Invite participants to name one “cloak” they sense God asking them to lay aside.

4. **The crowd often represents voices of doubt, judgment, or distraction. What “crowd noise” tends to quiet your spiritual boldness?**

Leader Note: Help people recognize internal or external distractions that drown out their faith—fear, comparison, busyness, or shame.

5. **Jesus asks Bartimaeus, “What do you want me to do for you?” Why is that question so powerful, and how might you personally answer it?**

Leader Note: Encourage participants to move beyond surface-level needs and identify deeper spiritual longings. God invites honest, specific prayer.

6. **Pastor Dave said that vulnerability moves the hand of God. What does true vulnerability before God look like for you?**

Leader Note: Explore how confession, dependence, and emotional honesty create space for healing and growth.

7. **Bartimaeus didn’t just receive healing—he followed Jesus. How does faith move from asking to acting in your life?**

Leader Note: Focus on discipleship as a response to grace. Faith doesn’t end with answered prayer—it deepens through obedience.

8. **How can our group create a space where people feel safe to cry out honestly to God and each other?**

Leader Note: Brainstorm ways to cultivate authenticity—listening without judgment, praying vulnerably, and respecting confidentiality.

4. Application and Prayer (10–15 min)

- Invite group members to identify one area where they need courage to cry out to Jesus this week.
 - Spend time in prayer, allowing moments of silence for reflection before voicing needs aloud.
 - Optionally, close with worship or Scripture meditation on Mark 10:51: *“What do you want me to do for you?”*
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Closing Prayer Suggestion

Lord, thank You for hearing us when we cry out. Give us the courage to come to You honestly and the humility to remove the masks we hide behind. Teach us to trust You enough to throw off our cloaks and to believe that You still stop when we call Your name. Strengthen our faith to follow You wherever You lead. Amen.