****

Ref: 3.20

Use the eight word cards on the accompanying to help you tell the following story of the blind man. To add to the fun, emphasise that the key words all end with the sound ‘eyes’ – although the spelling is, of course, ‘-ise’. Hold the appropriate card up when needed and encourage the children to call it out. Some words will need defining if children don’t know what they mean.

**Story:**

The poor man in today’s story couldn’t **visualise** the world around him because he had been blind from the day he was born. He had never seen a flower or a tree and could only identify his friends by the sound of their voices. He had a tough life begging for the money he needed to survive.

One day Jesus came into town, although the blind man didn’t **realise** that anyone special had arrived until he heard someone spit in the dust close by.

Jesus made a muddy paste and spread it on the man’s eyes – it was a bit of a **surprise**! ‘I wonder what’s happening,’ thought the man, but Jesus told him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam.

The blind man did exactly as he’d been told and the **surprise** turned into an amazing miracle, as he slowly opened his eyes and saw the light sparkling on the water. The blind man’s dark life was flooded with light and he was able to see the wonderful world that God had created.

All his neighbours and friends were amazed. They had never seen a miracle before and tried to explain it away. ‘Perhaps this isn’t the real blind man; perhaps he’s just wearing a **disguise** to look like him.’ But the blind man insisted, ‘I am the blind man, but thanks to Jesus, now I can see.’

Then the Pharisees came to **criticise**. They said, ‘We are sure that this man, Jesus, doesn’t come from God if he works on the Sabbath day.’

But the blind man shouted, ‘How many times must I **emphasise** this – I used to be blind and now I can see.’

Later, Jesus went and found the man again. ‘Lord, I put my faith in you,’ said the man as he fell down on his knees and worshipped Jesus.

**Response:**

Ask someone to read John 8:12 and encourage the children to think quietly about who they think Jesus is, by using the final cards in this way:

Take a moment to **analyse** this story. The blind man was able to **recognise** the Son of God, but the Pharisees were blind to the truth that was right in front of their eyes. Who do you think Jesus is? Does this story give us the clues we need?

