

## 28.60 Blind Man Healed at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22–26)

✓ “Check” it out: opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows  
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher, not the student. It also indicates answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and/or visual aids found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check also “Activities” and “Handwork” below for additional suggested items.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Bethsaida*: town on the north side of Sea of Galilee where, Jesus said, many mighty works were done, yet most of the people did not believe in Him

### Scripture: (ESV)

Mark 8:22 And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Do you see anything?” 24 And he looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees, walking.” 25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 And he sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.”

### Introduction/Review:

Jesus had had a brief encounter with the Pharisees and Sadducees on the west side of the Sea of Galilee. These men had asked Jesus to give them a sign from heaven. Instead, Jesus gave them one from the Old Testament. What was this sign, and what was its meaning? [Jonah; as he was in the belly of the fish three days and nights, so Jesus would be in the ground.]

After Jesus and His disciples sailed to Bethsaida [locate], Jesus warned the disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and of Herod. Tell me about these three groups of people. [Pharisees were Mosaic law-keepers; Sadducees were priests and not necessarily Mosaic law-keepers; Herodians were followers of King Herod.] What did the disciples think Jesus meant by the leaven of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and of Herod? [Leaven for bread, which they had forgotten to take.]

Jesus rebuked the disciples by saying, “Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?” What did the disciples not remember? [That Jesus had supplied bread for great crowds two times; He certainly was not speaking of the leaven of bread.] What was the leaven of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and of Herod? [The doctrines or teachings of these groups.]

More and more, Jesus is showing the distinction between those who believe on Him and those who don’t. Now He has come to Bethsaida, where many have not believed despite signs like feeding 5000 with five loaves and two fish.

### Story:

#### *The blind man*

Even though most of Bethsaida didn’t believe in Jesus, they gathered in crowds any time He was in the area. Some who believed brought to Jesus a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ✓They apparently knew Jesus often touched someone to make that person well.

The man they brought somehow had lost his sight ✓although he had been born being able to see.\* Rather than heal this man in the presence of the crowd, Jesus led him out of the village, away from the crowd, ✓maybe because he didn’t want the Pharisees to have any more opportunity to make up reasons to slay Him. Everyone knew He could heal; it didn’t matter at this time whether the healing was public or private. After

saying all this, let's be reminded that, for all our speculation, the Bible doesn't give us a reason why the two left town.

When Jesus healed the deaf-mute man in Decapolis, He did something that kind of grosses us out. He used spit to heal the deaf mute's tongue. For this blind man Jesus again employed the same method. Whichever way He did it—whether He spit on His finger and applied the spittle to the eyes or whether He directly spit into the eyes—we do not know, nor should we criticize. As we have said before, Jesus does all things right; He is God.

In this situation, we might make a case for Jesus' using liquid in a way to loosen the hard secretion that had "gummed" the man's eyes closed (<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/barnes/mark/8.htm>). However, even coupled with Jesus' laying His hands on the man, the cure was incomplete.

### ***Partial sight***

After applying the spittle, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

The man looked up and answered, "I see people, but they look like trees, walking."

Let's stop a minute and consider this miracle by Jesus not fully completed in one act. The Bible doesn't tell us why Jesus did this miracle halfway at first; so, again, we are merely suggesting possible reasons. First, though, let's be clear that Jesus could have healed the man immediately. This wasn't a healing that was more difficult and required two stages; after all, He had raised people from the dead with a word! Why, then were there two stages for this healing?

[Teacher, use the visual aid found below.] The Bible commentator, Albert Barnes, states, ✓"Probably our Lord did not 'at once' restore him fully to sight, that he might strengthen his faith. [Partial restoration] . . . was evidence that he could [heal] 'wholly'" (<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/barnes/mark/8.htm>).

Another suggestion has to do with blindness's being a symbol of unbelief. With what words had Jesus rebuked His disciples when they did not understand "the leaven of the Pharisees"? The answer is, "Having eyes do you not see . . .?" ✓Partial sight of the blind man illustrated their unbelief. "The disciples [were] blind to the fact that the manufacturer of bread [was] with them in the boat. . . . Given the context, it appears that this [two-stage] healing [of the blind man] is an object lesson for the disciples and for us. . . .

[K]nowing who Jesus is and confessing Him to be the Son of God are just half of what we must see. This view indicates partial vision. We must also see that Jesus, the Son of God, came to die and rise again. We must see who Jesus is and what He came to do, His Person and His work" (Dennis Prutow, "The Problem of Partial Vision," *Reformed Presbyterian Witness*, November/December 2017, p. 17).

### ***Complete healing***

So much for the partial part; now let's see how Jesus finished the healing. He laid his hands on the man's eyes again. This time when the blind man opened his eyes, his sight was fully restored; he saw everything clearly.

Once more Jesus commanded the healed one not to publish what had happened to him. Jesus sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."\*\* Apparently, the man did what Jesus said, for we do not read about his publishing this miracle.

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\*I say this because the man later recognized trees and knew the difference between them and men, likely having seen them earlier in his life. Also, the record of the healed man born blind in John 9 indicates that particular healing (of the man born blind) to be the first of its kind ever to be accomplished in the history of the world.

\*\*"[T]he reason of this was not merely or only because Christ would have the miracle concealed; but chiefly because the inhabitants of this place were notorious for their impenitence and unbelief. Christ had done many wonderful works among them and yet they repented not; nor did they believe in him; but despised him, his

doctrine and his miracles; and therefore for their neglect and contempt of such means he was determined to withdraw them from them. So Christ sometimes deals with nations cities and towns that disbelieve reject and despise his Gospel; he takes it away from them he orders his ministering servants to preach no more to them; no more to tell them of the good news of life and salvation by him: thus he dealt with the Jews who contradicted and blasphemed and judged themselves or by their conduct made themselves appear to be unworthy of the words of eternal life; he took away the kingdom of God or the Gospel from them and sent it among the Gentiles: and thus he threatened the church of Ephesus for leaving its first love to remove the candlestick out of its place in case of non-repentance; and a grievous judgment it is upon a place and people when God commands the clouds to rain no rain upon them, ( Isaiah 5:6 ); or, in other words when he enjoins his ministers no more to tell, or publish his Gospel to them; he determining to withdraw from them and have no more to do with them; so Christ and his disciples departed from this place, declared in the following verse”  
(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/mark-8-22.html>).

### **Lessons from This Lesson:**

- Jesus is God: He healed the blind man with spit and touch.
- Again, we should not question God’s ways of doing things in our own lives.
- We should evaluate our own lives in light of Jesus’ question, “Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?”
- Our good works are not to be done in order to be seen by others.
- Receive by faith *all* that God has revealed in His Word.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: face of a man with eyes closed, open; trees walking
- Students take turns leading a blindfolded student, the “blind” one holding the arm of the “seeing” one so that the “seeing” one is slightly ahead of the “blind,” making it possible for the “blind” to anticipate motion.
- Sing the third stanza of the song, “Jesus Healed . . .” found below.
- After printing, backing, and cutting out the enlarged memory verse words (Mark 8:18) found below, have students who read put them in order.
- This Scripture passage is short. Students who can read may read it aloud.
- Review the “Jesus Is God” display if you have it.
- Review questions: (Game: Print the enlarged words for the shortened memory verse found below. Back with flannel or flocked scraps and cut out the separate words. A correct answer entitles the student to place the next word on the flannel board.)
  1. In today’s story name the village in which Jesus and His disciples were. [Bethsaida.]
  2. Locate Bethsaida on a map. [North end of the Sea of Galilee.]
  3. Whom did some people bring to Jesus for healing? [A blind man.]
  4. How did the man’s friends think Jesus would heal him? [By touching him.]
  5. Where did Jesus lead the man? [Outside the village.]
  6. What process did Jesus first use in the healing? [Spit on the eyes and touching.]
  7. What did the man see at first? [Men as trees walking.]
  8. What happened when Jesus laid His hand on the man again? [He saw clearly.]
  9. What is one possible explanation for the partial sight in this miracle? [To establish faith in the man; to be an example to the disciples, who were often blind in understanding; to show we need to believe both that Jesus is God and believe in His work of death and resurrection for us.]

10. After the man received his sight, what did Jesus tell him? [“Go home; don’t even go to the village.”]

**Handwork:**

- Using the three templates found below, follow these instructions for a blind-man mask:
  1. Print the templates on card stock and have students color them.
  2. Cut out the bandages and both faces, leaving a small border around the faces. Each child will need two bandages.
  3. Place the happy face (face down). Glue a large popsicle stick on for a handle.
  4. While this is drying, glue the bandages to the eyes of the sad face.
  5. Glue the sad face to the back of the happy face. The popsicle stick will be sandwiched between. (<https://craftingthewordofgod.com/2013/06/25/blind-man-healed-mask/>).

**Memory Verse:**

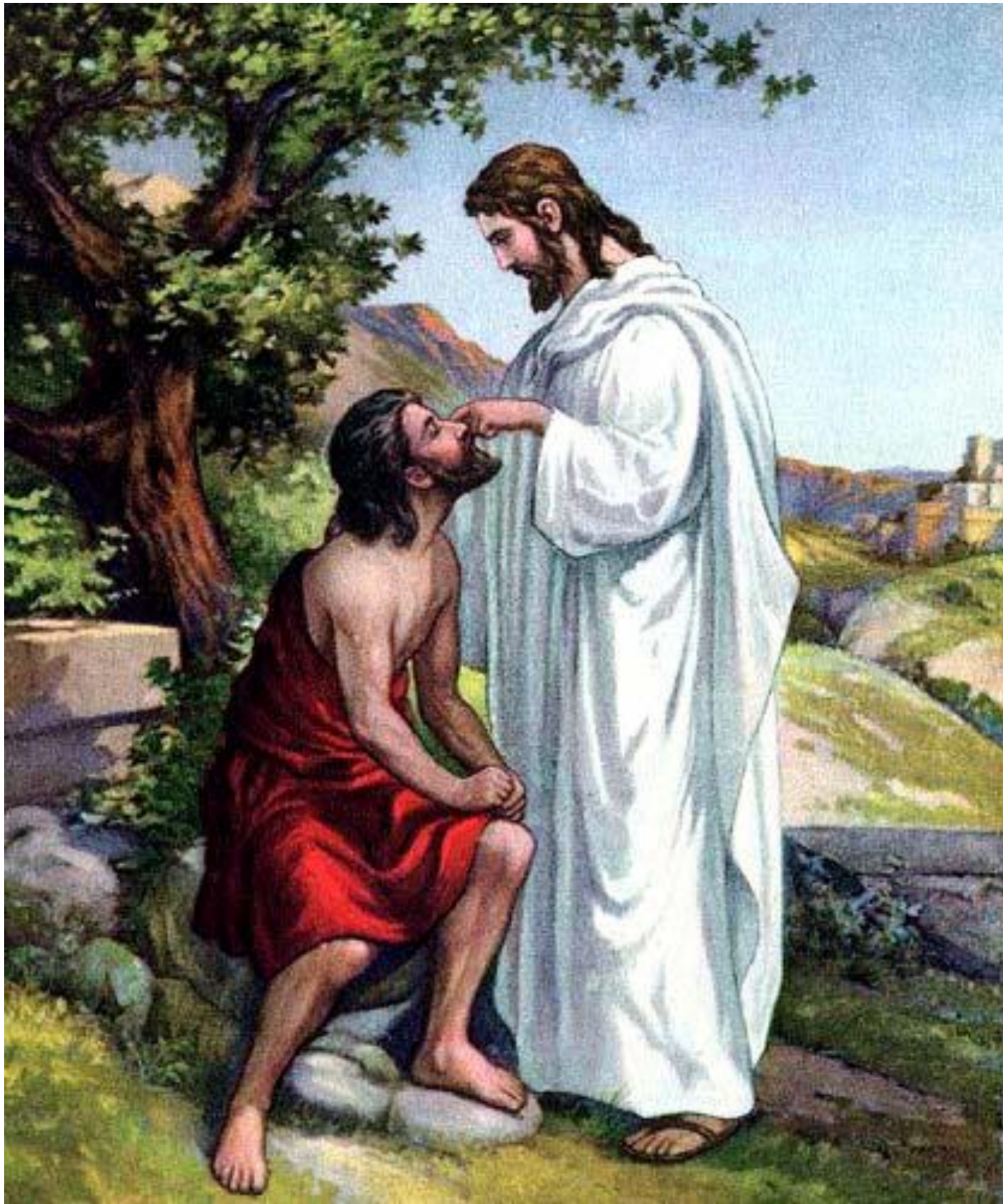
- Mark 8:18—[Jesus said,] “Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?”
- Review John 1:1–14.

# Bethsaida

# **Why Partial Sight to the Blind Man?**

- **To strengthen the man's faith**
- **To remind the disciples of their unbelief**
- **To give an object lesson**
  - **We must see Jesus' Person—who He is.**
  - **We must see Jesus' work—what He came to do.**





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<https://sgv17.wordpress.com/tag/mark-822-26/>





28.57, .60, .63

## Jesus Healed . . .

Marilyn Alexander

Marilyn Alexander



1. Je - sus healed the daugh - ter when her mo - ther begged and begged.  
2. Je - sus healed a deaf man so that he could hear and talk.  
3. Je - sus healed a blind man near the town of Beth - sai - da.  
4. Je - sus healed the man's son af - ter His hel - pers tried and failed.

Having eyes do you not see? Do you not remember?

**Having**

**eyes do**

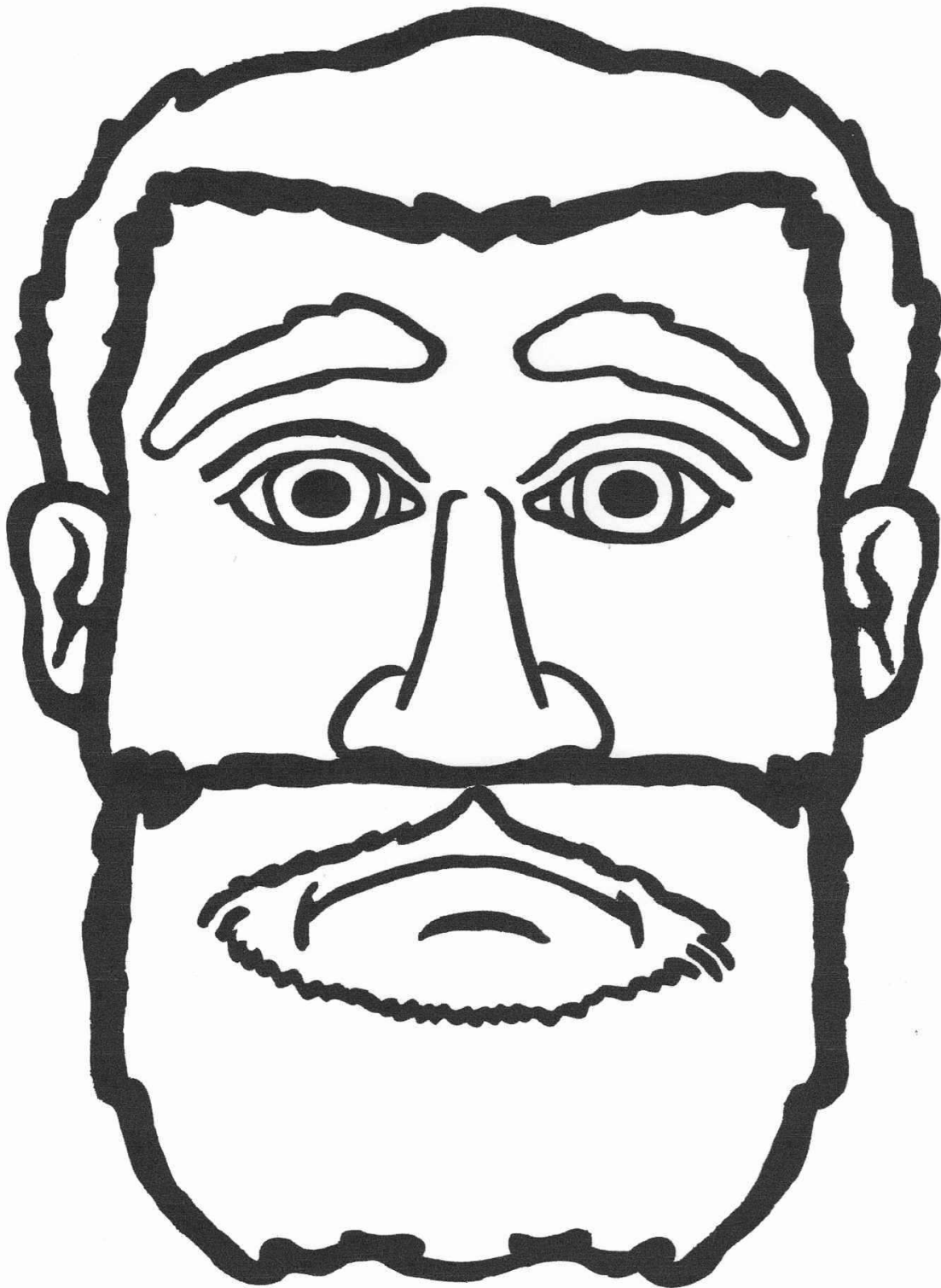
**you not**

**see?**

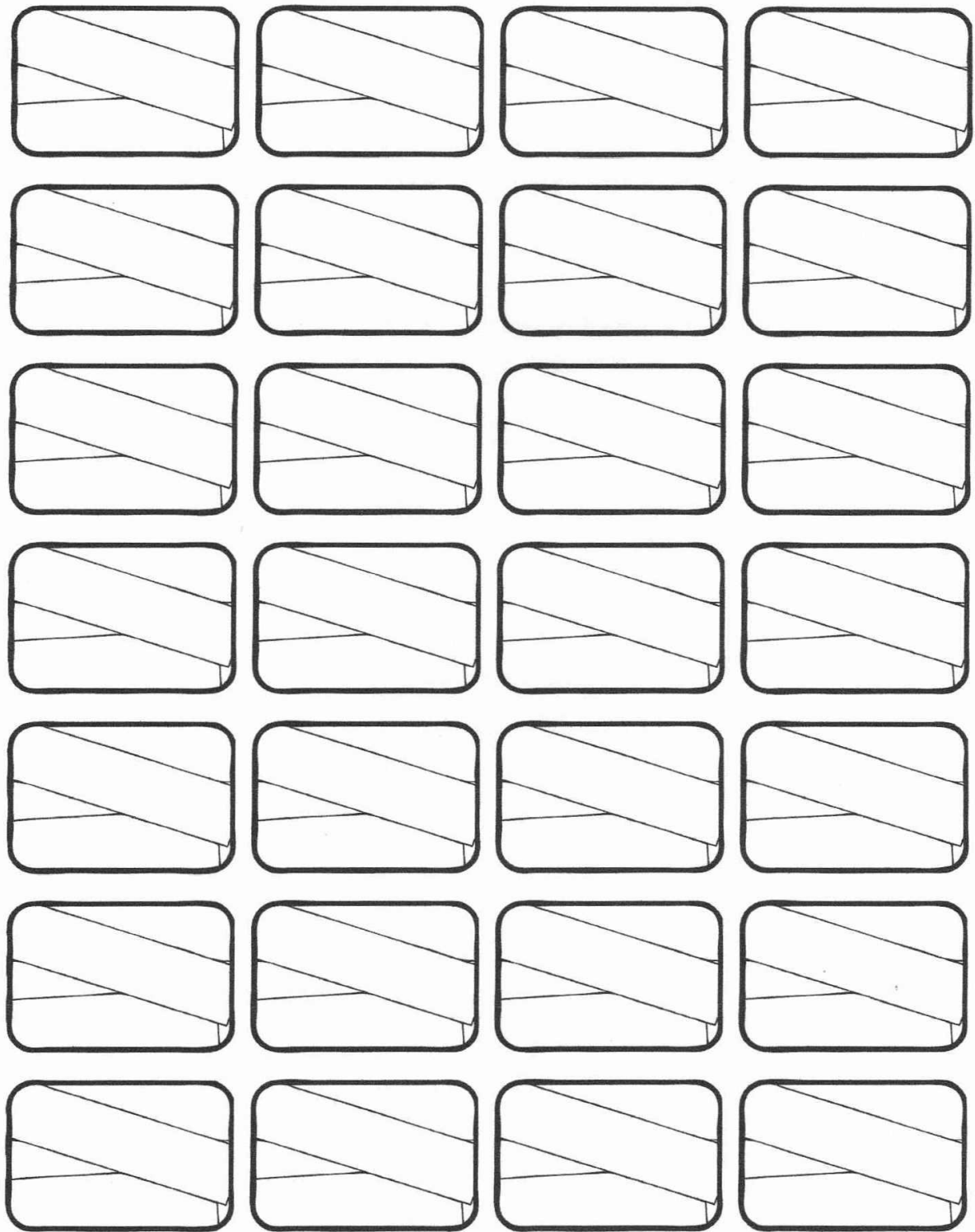
**Do you**

**not**

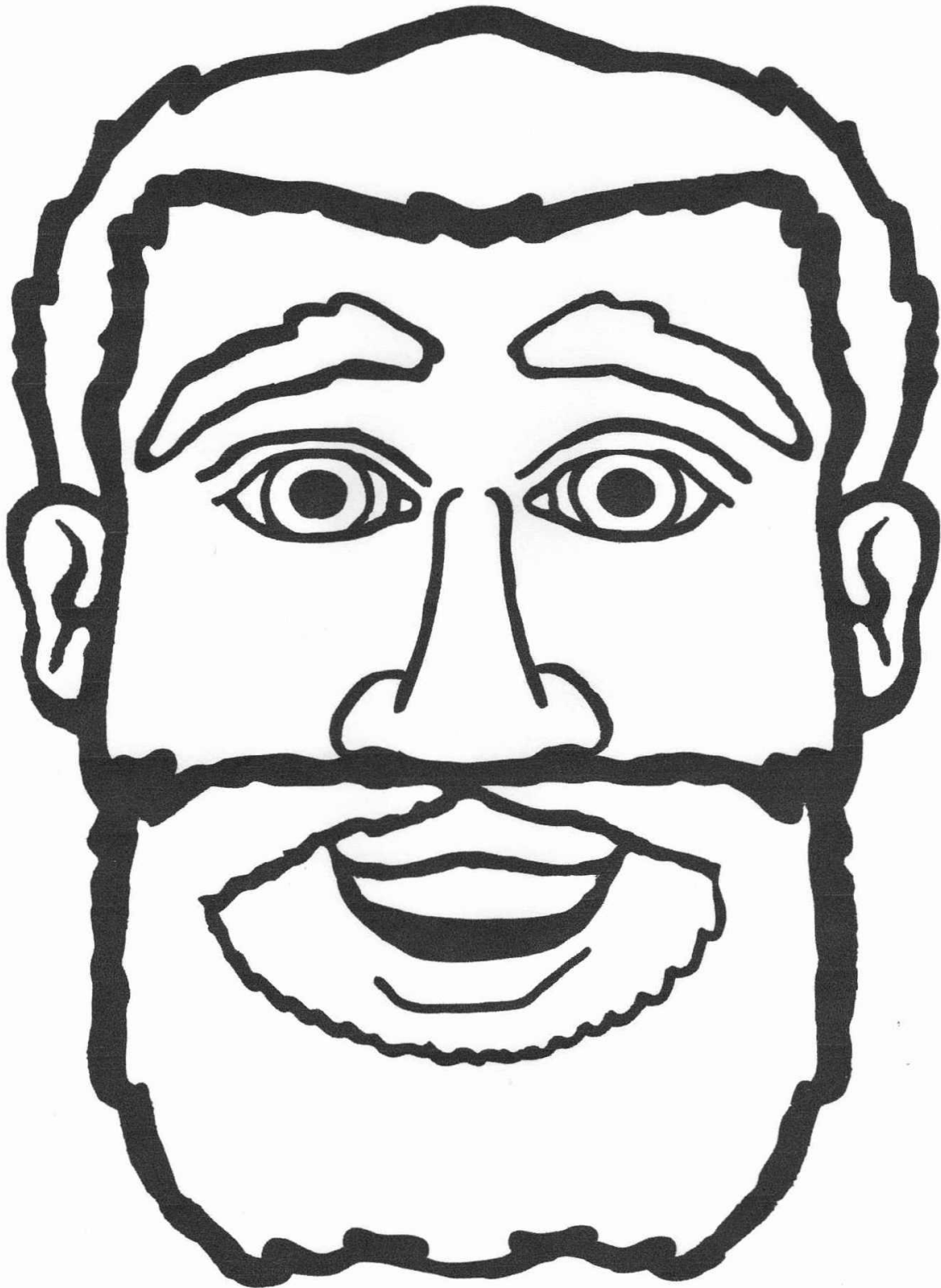
**remember?**



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