

## “The Eyes Have It”

Patsy Rowe



**Preparation:** Eye chart; various styles of eye glasses  
Acquire Braille cards from the CNIB - to be used  
for a game (or print off the copy provided)

Invite guest speaker from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind  
(CNIB)

### Introduction:

According to the information posted by the CNIB on its website, “Every 12 minutes, someone in Canada begins to lose their eyesight. But did you know that 75 percent of eye loss can be prevented?” (<http://www.cnib.ca/en/your-eyes/>)

**Save Your Sight:** “*Ten Simple Steps to Help Prevent Vision Loss*”  
(<http://www.cnib.ca/en/your-eyes/eye-care/prevent/>)

**Game:** Name the eye glasses

LEPTSACSCE	
GASSUSLESN	
FAYETS	
GRADENI	
FASIBOLC	
SILTFORCA	
SRIPESVOGER SELSEN	
ROHN-MERMID	
LEBWINOR	
TACS YEE	

Spectacles, sunglasses, safety, reading, bifocals, trifocals,  
progressive lenses, horn-rimmed, browline, cats eye

**The Invention of Braille:**

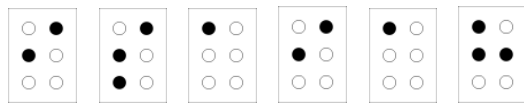
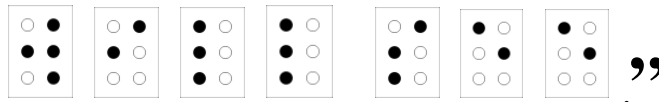
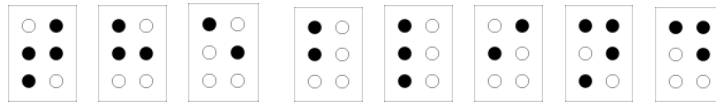
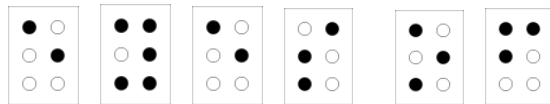
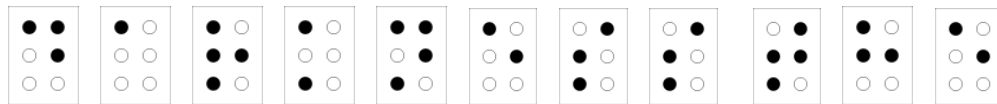
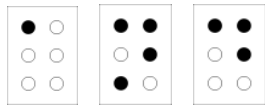
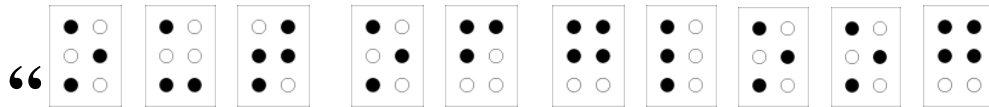
People who are blind can continue to read and write by learning Braille – a system that uses the sense of touch. The original use of Braille, invented by Charles Barbier, was for the use of Napoleon’s soldiers so they could communicate silently at night; however, the 12-dot system was too complicated and was rejected. In the 1820s, Louis Braille, who lost his sight at a very young age due to an accident, invented the 6-dot system, which was much easier to use and opened up the world of reading and writing for the blind.

(Information gleaned from the website Enabling Technologies: “*How Braille Began*”

<http://www.braillex.com/braillehx.htm> ).

**Game: Decipher the messages**

Instructions: Give out the Braille cards; decipher the scripture text



29: 18



( “Out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind will see.” Isaiah 29: 18)

**Song:** See Song Selections

**Scripture Reading:** John 9: 1-41 (NIV)



**Devotional:** Seeing Jesus

Light and darkness is a re-occurring theme throughout Scripture. Those who are in the light are equated with those who can see, while those who are in the darkness are those who are blind. In John 9, we are given a visual picture of both physical blindness and spiritual blindness. A man, born blind, has an encounter with Jesus who heals him of his blindness on the Sabbath day. When asked about how he was cured, the man replied, *“The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see (v. 11).”*

But there were others in this passage of Scripture that needed to have the same experience. The Pharisees’ task was to investigate the healing; they were skeptical about the man’s report that a prophet had performed a miracle on the Sabbath day, for to do so is considered work and it is sinful to do work on the Sabbath; in their estimation a true prophet would not sin in such a way! The Pharisees then questioned the man’s parents who confirmed that their son had been blind from birth; however, out of fear of being ex-communicated from the synagogue, they would not confirm who did the healing, even though they recognized that Jesus must be the Messiah (v. 22).

After the Pharisees accused the man of lying (v. 24) and *“they hurled insults at him”* (v. 28), and said, *“We don’t even know where he comes from”* (v. 29), the man then dared to challenge the wisdom of the Pharisees when he said, *“You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.... If this man were not from God, he could do nothing”* (v. 30-31).

This passage of scripture gives us three different responses to Jesus, which shows us the types of blindness that existed in Jesus’ culture, and exists today:

1. The man is cured of his physical blindness, but he has yet to make a confession of belief in Jesus as the Messiah, until Jesus demands a response from the man (v. 35-38). It is when the man acknowledges his belief in Jesus as the Son of Man and worships him that his sight (spiritual) is truly restored.
2. The parents of the man do not verbalize to the Pharisees their belief as to the identify of the man that cured their son for fear of repercussions. However, from John’s statement in verse 22, there is the indication that they believe Jesus is the Messiah, but wants to keep this a secret.
3. The Pharisees, who claimed to have prophetic authority for their interpretation of the Jewish Law, refused to categorize Jesus as a prophet because his actions did not fall in line with their interpretation of the Torah.

So then, the challenge presented to us is the same as that presented to God's people from the beginning of time - God calls us to move from darkness into light. In Christ, we are called to be cured of our blindness by our acknowledgement that Jesus, the light of God, has come and is available to all who would respond to Him as the Messiah. Let us allow our eyes to be opened by God so that no longer do we sit in gloom and darkness, but exist and live in the light of God's grace.

**Song Selections:** Open my eyes, Lord  
 We want to see Jesus lifted High  
 Amazing grace, how sweet  
 Be thou my vision  
 Open the eyes of my heart, Lord



**The Braille Alphabet**

⠁	⠃	⠉	⠇	⠑	⠋	⠗	⠎	⠏	⠕
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
⠅	⠒	⠓	⠎	⠏	⠏	⠗	⠗	⠗	⠗
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥				
u	v	w	x	y	z				

**The Braille Cell**

1	●	●	4
2	●	●	5
3	●	●	6