**The Blind Men and the Elephant**

Handout 10-A

While many versions of the fable below have been told, shared, and published, this is a famous poetic version written in the nineteenth century by John Godfrey Saxe. Read the fable, and when you have finished, look in particular at the penultimate stanza and explain, in two to three sentences, what is happening in those lines.

It was six men of Hindustan To learning much inclined, Who went to see the Elephant

(Though all of them were blind) That each by observation Might satisfy the mind.

The First approached the Elephant

And happening to fall Against his broad and sturdy side At once began to bawl:

“Bless me, it seems the Elephant

Is very like a wall.”

The Second, feeling of his tusk, Cried, “Ho! What have we here

So very round and smooth and sharp?

To me ’tis mighty clear This wonder of an Elephant Is very like a spear.”

The Third approached the animal, And happening to take

The squirming trunk within his hands, Then boldly up and spake:

“I see,” quoth he, “the Elephant

Is very like a snake.”

The Fourth reached out an eager hand, And felt about the knee.

“What most this wondrous beast is like

Is mighty plain,” quoth he; “’Tis clear enough the Elephant Is very like a tree!”

The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear, Said: “E’en the blindest man

Can tell what this resembles most; Deny the fact who can,

This marvel of an Elephant

Is very like a fan!”

The Sixth no sooner had begun

About the beast to grope, Than, seizing on the swinging tail That fell within his scope,

“I see,” quoth he, “the Elephant

Is very like a rope!”

And so these men of Hindustan Disputed loud and long, Each in his own opinion

Exceeding stiff and strong, Though each was partly in the right And all were in the wrong.

So oft in theologic wars, The disputants, I ween, Rail on in utter ignorance Of what each other mean,

And prate about an Elephant

Not one of them has seen!

What is happening in the lines of the second to last stanza?

**Getting to Know Jesus**

Handout 10-B

**Directions:** We get to know Jesus by drawing from a variety of sources, including Scripture, prayer, people, and others. Consider the sources below, and write what they have helped you come to know about Jesus. Add additional sources from your life.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Source: Gospels | Source: Book of Revelation |
|  |  |
| Source: Acts of the Apostles | Source: Letters of St. Paul |
|  |  |
| Source: Letter to the Hebrews | Source: |
|  |  |
| Source: Catholic Letters | Source: |
|  |  |
| Source: | Source: |
|  |  |
| Source: | Questions I still seek to answer in my life about Jesus: |
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