



PETER HEALS

ACTS 3-4

GOAL



To show children that the power that once transformed the lame man from a hopeless cripple to a joyful worshiper of God is the same power that transforms us from hopeless outcasts to sons and daughters of the King! The lame man in this story desired money to keep him alive for another day, but the apostles brought so much more: healing and relationship with the Messiah. It was in Jesus' name that the man was completely transformed. The power of Christ did exceedingly more for this beggar than what he originally asked for, or what he could have ever imagined. By this miracle, he saw the love of Jesus, His power and authority, and a glimpse into the kingdom of God. In one moment, he went from being a helpless beggar to being a whole man, walking, leaping, and praising God!

CHARACTERS



Peter: He was an apostle, one of the 12 chief disciples of Jesus Christ. His own transformation began when Jesus called him from being a fisherman to being a fisher of men. Through years of walking with Jesus, he went from being a fearful, impetuous, and unlearned disciple, to being one of the most courageous, loyal, and powerful witnesses to the sufferings of Christ and His resurrection.

The Lame Beggar: He was a familiar face at the Beautiful Gate of the temple in Jerusalem. He was brought to the same place daily to beg for his sustenance, and after years of doing the same thing, he had learned to expect nothing more. But one day everything changed when Peter looked him in the eye and spoke the words: "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

WORDS TO KNOW



Transformation: Made completely new; reborn. Wholly restored to a perfect condition.



MEMORY VERSES

▶ **Acts 3:6:** But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

John 1:12: But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Acts 3-4:** This story begins with a poor beggar sitting in the gate of the temple hoping to collect enough money to sustain him for yet another day. He had been lame from birth and had been repeating the same hopeless ritual for many years; until one day when Peter and John, two apostles of Jesus, passed by him to enter the temple. In a miraculous and divine appointment, Peter offered the man something more than he ever dreamed of: to be whole again. He was healed! A crowd formed to witness the miracle, and they required explanation. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter began to preach the Good News of the resurrected Christ and of repentance. The message was received in two extremes: thousands called on the name of Jesus and were saved; but others, chiefly religious leaders, felt threatened by their teaching and threw the apostles in jail. The next day, the apostles were warned sternly and released, but they refused to buckle under the threats and kept preaching salvation in Jesus alone.

SUGGESTIONS

▶ When the lame man woke up that morning to go about his day of begging, he was still in a helpless state. The best thing he could have hoped for was to collect enough money to provide for his basic needs. It never occurred to him to ask for anything more.

1. **What did the lame man ask for?** Money to help cover basic needs.
2. **What did he receive?** Healing for a completely changed life and the presentation of Jesus and His offer of eternal life.



PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

▶ **Old vs. New | Supplies:** Pile of old clothes and a pile of new clothes.

Separate the class into two teams. At “Go!” one of the teams will run to the pile of new clothes and the other to the pile of old clothes. The first team to put on the entire pile of clothes first wins!

Use this activity to illustrate the transforming miracle of becoming new.

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MEMORY VERSES APPLICATION

▶ **Acts 3:6:** Silver and gold would have been nice, but think about how much greater it was to the lame man to be able to walk for the first time in 40 years! But that was not all! Peter told him about the Messiah who offered eternal salvation—something that would last even longer than a lifetime.

John 1:12: The greatest miracle of all is that God sent His only Son to die for our sins; and He not only forgave us the debt of our sin, but He made us His sons and daughters. Fathers take care of their children and discipline them. Good fathers desire blessing for thier children.

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POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

▶ **Gratitude Ball Toss | Supplies:** a beach ball or large play ball.

Have the students sit in a circle. Show them the ball and explain that when they catch the ball, they must say something that God has given them or done in their lives that they are thankful for. Start off by giving your own example, then toss the ball to a random student. Tell students to think of something and have it ready in order to keep momentum going. Have the students toss the ball back and forth between them until everyone has had a turn; repeat if desired.



TAKE HOME



Talk about the temporary and eternal gifts that God gives:

1. Temporal Gifts: Air, water, food, sleep, clothing, shelter, companionship, etc. Talk about how every good gift is from God. Let children share needs that have been met in their lives.

2. Eternal Gift: Adoption, forgiveness, peace, joy, gift of faith, eternal life. Talk about the ultimate gift of eternal life. Let children discuss the importance of eternal well-being over everything else.

CLOSING PRAYER



Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for providing everything we need. Thank You that you have the power to give us our next breath, to heal and restore, and to give us eternal life. Help us to be thankful for everything You give us. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



SLIDE 1

QUESTION & ANSWER



Q1a: What was the man doing at the Beautiful Gate of the temple in Jerusalem?

A1: He was begging for enough money to cover his basic needs for the day.

Q1b: Why does God allow people to be born disabled?

TN: Disabilities exist because we live in a fallen, imperfect world. God allowed this man to be born crippled so that at this exact moment, God's glory, mercy, and power could be seen. God is no less a part of the lives of disabled people than He is in people without disabilities. God uses people with disabilities to do His work. Disabilities can be severe, like we see in the man waiting at the gate in this story, or minor, like we see with Moses who was slow of speech. The man was healed, and he became a walking testimony of God's power and mercy. Moses was not healed, but God gave him what he needed to be successful. Moses' obedience, despite his disability, showed his trust in God, and his successes were a testimony to God's grace. It is hard to understand, but disabilities aren't arbitrary or unnecessary; they are a part of God's plan. Another important aspect to point out is that disabilities are temporary. When we go to Heaven, we won't need wheelchairs, glasses, or hearing aids. We won't get headaches or cavities in our teeth—our bodies will be made perfect.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What did Peter give the man?

A2: Peter had no money to give him, but he gave him healing through the power of Jesus Christ.

Q2b: Which would you rather have: a used bicycle or a motorbike?

TN: If a motorbike is an option, we'd probably all rather have that than a used bicycle. The man at the gate was asking only for a little bit of money to help him pay for his basic needs, but instead, a man of faith saw his real need and, through the power of Jesus, took care of it—he was healed. God sees our needs and blesses us more abundantly than we could ever think or imagine.

SLIDE 3



Q3a: Did the man fall down after trying to walk for the first time?

A3: No, the man stood up, walked, and then leapt around.

Q3b: Have you ever broken a bone that required you to wear a cast?

TN: Most minor breaks require small casts that allow us to move around and function almost normally. Severe breaks require full casts that restrict our movement. In either case, finally getting those casts removed and no longer being stuck in one awkward position is so freeing! Imagine what it must have felt like for this man, who had been unable to walk since he was born, to finally be able to move on his own. This wasn't just about comfort, this changed his entire life. He would no longer have to beg for just enough to cover his basic needs each day, he could get a job and prosper. He could help people who were still disabled. A future he never dreamed of was now his to figure out, and it was all possible because of God.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did Peter ask the amazed crowd of people that followed him into the temple?

A4: Peter asked the people why they were impressed, as if they had done it on their own power.

Q4b: Has anyone ever clapped and praised your abilities after you flipped a light switch and the room became illuminated?

TN: Clearly this person doesn't know how electricity works! We did not discover electricity, figure out how to use it, and then create and install the wiring—we just know how to use the switch. Peter tries to explain a very similar concept to the people who were amazed by how he healed this crippled man. Just like we know a light will turn on when we flip the switch because we know it is connected to electricity, Peter's words, "rise up and walk," were connected to the power of Jesus through his faith. Peter flipped the switch, Jesus provided the power.

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What did the religious rulers ask Peter and John?

A5: They asked Peter and John by what power or name they healed the crippled man.

Q5b: Have you ever heard the saying: Honesty is the best policy?

TN: This saying is absolutely true. We should always be honest; however, honesty is not always the easiest solution. Peter and John had been called before the same religious rulers who had put Jesus to death. Telling these men that they had healed a man by the power of Jesus Christ was not going to be an easy thing to say. The Holy Spirit filled Peter and emboldened him to not only tell them by whose authority and power he had healed the crippled man, he went on to tell them that salvation can only be found through Jesus! Speaking the truth is not always easy, but it is always right.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 6



Q6a: What did the religious rulers warn Peter and John not to do anymore?

A6: They told Peter and John not to speak of Jesus anymore.

Q6b: A classmate tells you that if you ever correctly answer a question in class again, he'll give you an "F." Is that possible?

TN: No! Students have no authority over grades; that's the teacher's job. This is an idle threat. The religious rulers may have been able to cause trouble and discomfort for Peter and John, but the religious leaders were not the authority to whom Peter and John answered. They answered to a much higher authority with much more power: God.



MEMORY VERSES

▶ **Acts 3:6:** But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

John 1:12: But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

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BIG IDEA

▶ We are made complete through our faith in Jesus Christ.

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CLOSING PRAYER

▶ Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for providing everything we need. Thank You that you have the power to give us our next breath, to heal and restore, and to give us eternal life. Help us to be thankful for everything You give us. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



To the cripple who sat in the Beautiful Gate of the temple in Jerusalem, begging was a familiar life. It was all he knew, as he'd been unable to walk or move properly since the day he was born. Each day he was dropped off in the same spot, and each day he sat, hoping to earn just enough money to cover his basic needs. Today he expected no more or less as he watched Peter and John, apostles of Jesus, approach the entrance to the temple. The beggar called to them, "Please, if you have anything to give..."

SLIDE 2



Peter and John looked intently into the eyes of the lame man—which startled him at first, because no one passing by had ever stopped to look at him before. But confusion gave way to expectation as he gestured toward the two, holding up an empty cup. Peter spoke kindly to the man, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

SLIDE 3



The words, "rise up and walk," begged the attention of onlookers, who waited to see what would happen next. The crippled man's weak, shriveled legs had never been used before. Surely, he would collapse back to the ground. They watched as the man stood, walked, and then began leaping about and praising God!



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 4



The people were filled with wonder and amazement over the miracle, and word quickly spread. Soon the crowd grew even larger, and they began to follow Peter and John into the temple, hoping for some explanation. While the healed man clung to the apostles, the fascinated crowd followed them into the temple courts. Peter turned and said, "Why are you so impressed with us, as though we did this in our own power? Jesus, the Messiah, who you rejected and crucified, is alive, and it is by the power in His name that this man walks." He continued boldly, "Repent, and turn back to God, and your sins will be forgiven you!"

SLIDE 5



The captain of the temple and the Sadducees, religious leaders who didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah or in His resurrection, were annoyed at the disturbance. There was something strangely familiar about the apostles' message. They arrested Peter and John and put them in jail overnight. Despite this opposition, many people believed in Jesus as the Messiah. On the next day, the religious rulers gathered together and began to question Peter and John: "By what power or by what name do you do these things?" Instantly, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he replied, "Let it be known to all of you that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who you crucified and God raised from the dead—by His name this man stands before you completely healed!" He continued, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." The rulers were astonished at the supernatural courage of these common, uneducated men; then it occurred to them that they had been with Jesus.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 6



Finding no crime in healing the lame man, and fearing an uproar from the people who witnessed it, the rulers finally set the men free—but they warned them that if they ever spoke of Jesus again, they would most certainly suffer for it. The apostles were not afraid. They knew that God was more powerful than any ruler on earth, so they continued to preach Jesus everywhere they went, and the young church grew in boldness and great power.