

THE LAME BEGGAR WALKS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 3:1-4:4



There is power in the name of Jesus.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

The lame beggar is healed. – In a story reminiscent of Jesus, we see Peter and John on their way to the temple when they were interrupted by the call of a crippled man who asked for money. Peter called for the man's attention and then, in the name of Jesus, ordered the man to walk. Peter helped the man up, and instantly the man's feet were healed! Recognizing this, he leapt to his feet and went into the temple praising God. The power of Jesus continued even after His death, resurrection, and ascension!

The temple had been quiet for some time. The agitation Jesus and His ministry once caused had passed. Though there were rumors of His rising from the dead, they likely did not carry much weight because Jesus was nowhere to be found. He was gone. The Jewish leaders probably did not realize there were now four thousand Christians about to break the message out to the whole world. With the words "in the name of Jesus," there was commotion in the temple again!

Peter addresses the amazed crowd. – The people came running to see the miracle that had just taken place. They were astonished. Peter wasted no time giving credit for the miracle to Jesus. Peter shared the gospel with the crowd. His message was not mild. In fact, he accused them of killing Jesus. Peter testified that he was a witness to the resurrection.

Peter's actions were in keeping with the charge Jesus gave the disciples just before His ascension. Jesus said in Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The mission to touch all people began in Jerusalem.

Many who heard believed. - Peter and John stirred up so much commotion that the Sadducees put them in jail. But many who heard the message believed, and continued praising God. This posed quite a problem for the religious rulers. They could see the man who was 40 years old and crippled from birth standing there. They were surprised by the courage of Peter and John. They decided to simply ask them to stop talking about Jesus. Peter and John refused. After the rulers threatened them again, Peter and John were released.

THE LAME BEGGAR WALKS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 3:1-4:4

WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

After healing the crippled beggar, Peter was not going to miss an opportunity to share the gospel. Peter explained that if they repented and believed in Jesus, their sins could be forgiven. He appealed to them from the words of the prophets, and he quoted Moses (see Deuteronomy 18:15). Peter ended his appeal by reminding them of Jesus' call for them to abandon their wicked ways. The gospel was the theme of Peter's appeal.

ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Psalm 49:7-9

Connecting the passage to Christ:

No mere man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him. But Jesus was no mere man. Paul told Timothy, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men" (see 1 Timothy 2:5,6). Not only was Jesus sufficient as a ransom for one man, Jesus' life was sufficient as a ransom for all men!

Questions for reflection:

- Why can't a man give up his life to ransom another from God? (All of us are sinful. We don't have the worth of a sinless man; therefore, we cannot pay the debt of another man who has fallen into sin. Imagine trying to make amends with a neighbor if your son broke his window by giving him a broken window!)
- Why can Jesus pay the ransom for all men? (First, as a man, Jesus lived a sinless life here on earth. Secondly, His worth is far greater than all the people of the earth combined.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

THE LAME BEGGAR WALKS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 3:1-4:4

ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

Review Peter's message and have your students pick out all the Gospel components that they can see. Talk about why it was important for Peter to share the Gospel. The gospel is the power of God for salvation.

RETELL THE STORY AS PETER

Supplies:

Peter costume

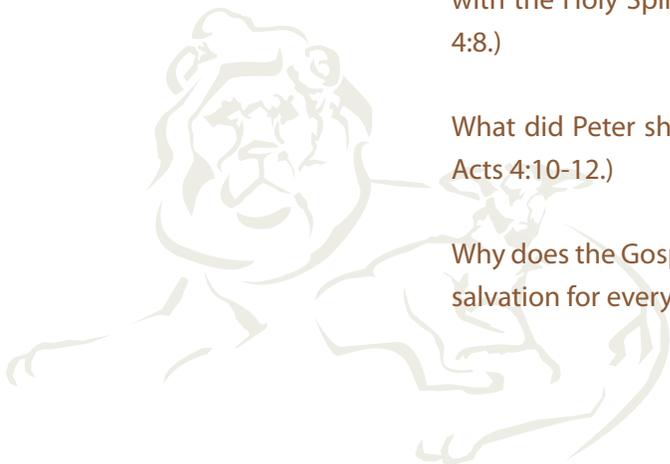
Tell the story as Peter and include the following:

- As Peter goes up to the temple he remembers the words of Jesus from Acts 1:8.
- Peter senses the Spirit wants to heal the crippled beggar.
- Peter shares the message with a power and courage that he can only explain as coming from the Holy Spirit.
- Peter, the instigator, is looking forward to stirring up the quiet of the temple and tells you that he shouted out the message so that everyone could hear.
- Talk of his arrest in Acts 4:3. Mention that he was not afraid, but actually glad to be in prison for the sake of the Gospel, remembering his former denial.
- Talk of the filling of the Spirit in Acts 4:8.
- End by sharing that "they just let us go because everyone was praising God." (Acts 4:21-22)

Where did Peter get the courage to speak to the rulers and elders? (Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit emboldened him and helped him. See Acts 4:8.)

What did Peter share with the religious rulers? (Peter shared the Gospel. Review Acts 4:10-12.)

Why does the Gospel keep getting repeated? (The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes. See Romans 1:16.)



THE LAME BEGGAR WALKS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 3:1-4:4

MEMORIZE ROMANS 1:16.

Supplies:
white board

Write the verse on the board and rehearse it with your class. Remove one word at a time as they get more confident. Then ask for volunteers to recite it.

Have them look at Acts 3:11-4:22 and tell you where they see this verse in action.

Talk about how Acts 4:12 works together with Romans 1:16. (Acts 4:12 tells us that not only is the Gospel the power of God for our salvation, but it is the only way of salvation!)

PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

IN CLASS PROJECT

Supplies:
pencil and paper

Draw a picture of the cripple dancing. Across the top write the words, "In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk."



THE LAME BEGGAR WALKS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 3:1-4:4

FOR THE OLDER GRADES

SIGNIFICANT VERSES

Supplies:

paper and pencil

Write the following three verses on the board and have each student pick one and answer the following question: Why is this a significant verse in the Bible? Tell them you are going to ask individuals to share what they wrote with the class.

• Acts 3:15: You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. (If Jesus is the author of life, he is God the Creator not just an ordinary man. Jesus, indeed, was raised, and Peter is a witness.)

• Acts 4:10: Then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. (The power of Jesus is still in operation even though Jesus has gone. There is power in the name of Jesus. Jesus told the disciples that they would ask things in his name and his Father would give them what they asked. See John 16:23-26. Feel free to give this scripture to the class as a clue.)

• Acts 4:12: Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Jesus is the only way to heaven. That means that all other religions or ways are false.)

Give the class time to write their answers and then ask for volunteers. Talk about each passage.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Sadducees – The Sadducees were a priestly party, much like the Pharisees, and were, in some ways, in opposition to the Pharisees. The Pharisees believed in a resurrection from the dead, but the Sadducees did not. When Peter came into the temple preaching the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, he didn't exactly win any friends among the Sadducees.

