

LESSON 47

The Lame Beggar Walks

ACTS 3:1–4:31



BIBLE TRUTH

THERE IS POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Acts 3:1—4:31 from the Scriptures or read story 125, “The Lame Beggar Walks,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

Peter’s Story

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple Peter costume made from a flat sheet and a rope belt

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Jesus, Jesus

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large sign with the name Jesus on it.

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 47—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Memorize Romans 1:16.

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

In a story reminiscent of the ministry of Jesus, Peter and John were interrupted on their way to the temple by the call of a crippled man asking for money. Instead of giving money, Peter called for the man's attention and then, in the name of Jesus, commanded the man to walk. Certainly Peter remembered what Jesus had said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:12–13). Peter helped the man up, and instantly the man's feet were made strong! Recognizing that he was healed, 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 once caused by Jesus and his ministry had passed. Though there were rumors of his rising from the dead, they likely did not carry much weight because Jesus 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 once again.

Peter preaches Christ to the crowd—The people came running and were astonished by the miracle, but didn't realize by whose power it had taken place. Peter wasted no time giving credit for the miracle to Jesus. He wanted to be sure that everyone understood that the man had been healed in the name of Jesus. Peter then shared the gospel. This was not an easy message for the people to hear. Peter didn't say, "All you need to do is make Jesus your friend." In fact, he accused them of killing Jesus (Acts 3:15). Then Peter testified that he was a witness to Christ's 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 has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." The mission to touch all people began in Jerusalem.

Peter preaches Christ to the elders—Peter and John stirred up so much commotion that the Sadducees arrested them. But many who heard the message believed and continued praising God. This posed quite a problem for the religious rulers. They could see the forty-year-old man, crippled from birth, standing and walking. They were surprised by the courage

of Peter and John. They asked Peter to explain by what power he had healed the crippled man. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter accused them of crucifying Jesus and then testified to his resurrection (Acts 4:10). Refusing to be intimidated by the threats of the religious leaders, Peter and John continued to speak and teach in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:19–20).

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

It was in the name of Jesus that the beggar was healed, and it was the name and gospel of Christ that Peter brought to the crowd and the religious rulers. 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 would be forgiven. He appealed to them from the words of the prophets, and he quoted Moses (Acts 3:22–23). Peter ended his appeal by reminding them of Jesus' call for them to abandon their wicked ways. This story is the gospel from start to finish.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Acts 3:1—4:31 from the Scriptures or read story 125, "The Lame Beggar Walks," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **15 MIN**

Peter's Story

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple Peter costume made from a flat sheet and a rope belt

Reenact the story as Peter and include the following:

1. As Peter goes up to the temple, he remembers the words of Jesus from Acts 1:8.
2. Peter senses the Spirit wants to heal the crippled beggar.
3. Peter shares the message with a power and courage that he can only explain as coming from the Holy Spirit.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Talk of the filling of the Spirit in Acts 4:8.
7. End by sharing that the council let them go because everyone was praising God (Acts 4:21–22).

Lead the class in discussion by asking the following questions:

- **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 [Romans 1:16].)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

Jesus, Jesus

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large sign with the name Jesus on it

Use this exercise to help the children see just how often Jesus is the subject of this story. After reading the story, tell the class you are going to ask them a question and the answer is always going to be “Jesus, Jesus.” After you ask the question, hold up your sign as a cue for the class to say “Jesus, Jesus.”

- Whose name did Peter use to heal the lame man? (Jesus, Jesus)
- Who did they call the author of life? (Jesus, Jesus)
- Who was the one who raised up from the dead? (Jesus, Jesus)
- Who died on the cross for our sin? (Jesus, Jesus)
- Who was the prophet God raised up like Moses? (Jesus, Jesus)
- Who was the one in whom many believed? (Jesus, Jesus)
- Who is the one in whose name we are saved? (Jesus, Jesus)
- What is the name they forbade Peter to speak? (Jesus, Jesus)
- Who did Peter say the signs and wonders were from? (Jesus, Jesus)
- Who should we follow all of our days? (Jesus, Jesus)

Afterward, the children should be excited, yet ready for you to share the gospel in a calmer tone to help them to understand the significance of Acts 4:12.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 47—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What happened to this man?**
(Peter and John prayed to Jesus for him and he was healed.)
- **How do you think the man felt after he was healed?**
(He was very happy.)
- **What did the healed man say?**
(The healed man praised God. This man connected Jesus Christ with God.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Memorize Romans 1:16

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

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!)

LESSON 47 - THE LAME BEGGAR WALKS

