

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

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ photocopies of Acts 3:1—4:31—one copy for each student
- ✓ pencils or pens or highlighters
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

No Other Name

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ index cards (Write the following names on the cards: Buddha, Confucius, Allah, Baal, Caesar, Vishnu, Jesus of Nazareth, and Zeus.)
- ✓ masking tape
- ✓ Bibles for the class (or the photocopies of the passage used in the first object lesson)

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

The Lame Man Healed

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

LESSON SNAPSHOT

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Significant Verses

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

TOTAL 85 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).

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.

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

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ photocopies of Acts 3:1—4:31—one copy for each student
- ✓ pencils or pens or highlighters
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Pass out the copies and ask the class to highlight or underline every part of the gospel that is found in Acts 3:1—4:31. If your class needs a little help, write the words: “Gospel: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus” on the board.

Make sure the children see that the beggar was healed in Jesus’ name, and that the disciples preached the gospel to both the crowd and the religious rulers.

After your teaching session, talk about Peter’s boldness in proclaiming his message and how much the gospel was a part of the growth of the early church.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

No Other Name

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ index cards (Write the following names on the cards: Buddha, Confucius, Allah, Baal, Caesar, Vishnu, Jesus of Nazareth, and Zeus.)
- ✓ masking tape
- ✓ Bibles for the class (or the photocopies of the passage used in the first object lesson)

Tape on the board all the cards on which you have written names.

Draw students' attention to the cards posted on the board and ask them what is written on them. (They should say or you can tell them that each name is associated with a religion. Jesus, of course, is the Son of God.)

Ask them, what is different about Jesus from the others? (Students may give a lot of different answers, but have one someone read Acts 4:12: "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.")

Talk about how today, just like in New Testament times, people all over the world are trying to find their way to God using means other than Jesus Christ. Ask the class how many ways the Bible tells us a person can get to heaven? (Only one.)

One by one, go through the names and ask whether salvation can be found through that name; e.g., "Can Buddha save you?" (No) "Can Confucius save you?" (No).

Save Jesus for last and ask, "Can Jesus save you?" Point the class to Acts 3:1—4:31. Ask them to read it and tell you how Jesus can save when false gods can't.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

The Lame Man Healed

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

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

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN****Significant Verses****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper and pencils
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Write on the board Acts 3:15; 4:10; and 4:12. Have the students pick one of the verses and answer the question: Why is this an important verse in the Bible?

Acts 3:15: “You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.” (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: “Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.” (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 [John 16:23–26].)

Acts 4:12: “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.” (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 to share what they wrote with the class. Talk about each passage.