

Peter Healed a Beggar

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31

MAIN POINT: In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk.

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:13

2

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.

KIDS WORSHIP

- Countdown
- Introduce the session (2 min.)
- Giant timeline (1 min.)
- Big picture question (1 min.)
- Tell the Bible story (10 min.)
- Christ connection
- Group demonstration (5 min.)
- Review (4 min.)
- Key passage (5 min.)
- Group game (5–10 min.)
- Sing and offering (3–12 min.)
- Missions (6 min.)
- Announcements (2 min.)
- Prayer (2 min.)
- Additional idea

Leader BIBLE STUDY

With the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were empowered to carrying out Jesus' mission for them—to take the gospel to all the nations. More and more people believed in Jesus. They met together at the temple to praise and worship God, and the first church began.

One afternoon, two of Jesus' disciples—Peter and John—

went to the temple to pray. They encountered at the gate a man who could not walk. Rather than give the man money, Peter gave him something much more valuable: immediate physical healing in Jesus' name.

As you teach this Bible story to kids, keep three things in mind. First, Peter's healing the beggar was not magic; it was a miracle. Beginning in Acts 3:12, Peter responded to the people who were amazed at what had happened. "Why are you amazed at this ... as though we had made him walk by our own power?" The man wasn't healed because Peter was a super-believer. Peter explained that it was by Jesus' power the man was healed.

Second, the man's healing made him happy and thankful. He entered the temple and rejoiced! Consider the wonderful miracle of salvation. We are dead in our sin, and God makes us alive in Christ! How we should rejoice and give thanks to the Lord!

Finally, Peter and John were bold in their witness. When confronted by the religious leaders, they did not shy away. Peter and John preached about the salvation found in Jesus. In fact, they said they were "unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

The same power that enabled Peter to heal the man who was lame—the power of the Holy Spirit—enables believers today to live on mission for Jesus. Pray that God would give the kids you teach a willingness to be used by Him for His glory and for the fame of Jesus' name.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

2

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Act it out:** Ask an adult helper to play out the role of the beggar. He should sit on the floor until Peter says, “Get up and walk!” Then he should walk and leap around.
- **Use pauses:** Allow silence to draw kids’ attention and emphasize key action by pausing after dialogue or between some of the paragraphs.

Peter Healed a Beggar

Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31

One afternoon, Peter and John—two of Jesus’ followers—went to the temple. It was time to pray. **When they got there, Peter and John saw a man sitting by a gate. The man could not walk.** Every day, the man’s friends carried him to the temple, where he sat outside. **As people entered the temple, they walked by the man, and the man asked them for money since he could not work.**

Peter said to the man, “Look at us.” The man looked at Peter and John, expecting them to give him something.

Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you, but I will give you what I do have.” Then **Peter said, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!”**

Peter reached out and helped the man up. All of a sudden, the man’s feet and ankles were strong. He could walk! In fact, the man leaped around! **He went into the temple with Peter and John, and he praised God.**

The people in the temple saw the man. Wasn’t this the man who sat by the gate outside the temple every day? The man who asked for money because he couldn’t walk? Yes, it was the man! And he was healed! How could such a wonderful thing happen? **The people were amazed at what had happened.**

The next day, the religious leaders got together. They asked Peter and John, “How did you heal this man? By what power or in what name did you do this?”

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. He said, “We want all of you to know that this man was healed by the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. You nailed Jesus to a cross, but God raised Him from the dead. It is because of

Him that this man is healed!”

Peter told the religious leaders that they rejected Jesus because they thought He was not important, but He is the most important One of all.

The religious leaders were amazed, and they didn't know what to say. They ordered Peter and John to never preach or teach in the name of Jesus again.

Peter and John said, “We cannot be quiet. We must tell people about what we have seen and heard.” The religious leaders had no reason to punish Peter and John, so they let them go. Peter and John met with other believers and prayed that God would give them power to speak boldly and without fear.

Christ Connection: After Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to begin working. With the power of Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who was lame. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus' followers from sharing the good news about Jesus.

Kids Worship LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Peter Healed a Beggar

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31

MAIN POINT: In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk.

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

Introduce the session (2 min.)

• leader attire

• top hat

• wand with white tip

[Abe is standing in front of the table. There is a top hat on the table facing up. Abe is waving the white-tipped wand and repeating different words that start with A while pointing the rod at the hat. Howie enters.]

ABE • *Aardvark!* Hmmm, that's not it. *Anteater!* Nope, not that either. *Addition!* Why can't I remember?

HOWIE • Hey, Abe, what's going on?

ABE • Ah! Howie! Good to see you again. The Astounding Abe R. Cadabra at your service.

HOWIE • Astounding Abe? I thought it was Amazing Abe.

ABE • Well, it was, but apparently another illusionist has a trademark on that name. I certainly don't want anyone getting me mixed up with him, so I decided to graciously allow him to keep *amazing*. Also, I got a cease-and-desist letter.

HOWIE • Well, I'm glad you had a backup name ready to go. So, how are you planning to astound us today?

ABE • Well, I had the most astounding trick ever! I saw Gary

the Great do this great illusion just the other day.
He said a special word, waved a rod just like this at
a hat just like that, and a rabbit came out of the hat.
I can't seem to get it to work, though. If I could just
remember the word ... let me try again. *Ameliorate!*
Antithesis! Avocado!

HOWIE • Hey, *Abe R. Cadabra* have you tried “Abracadabra.”

ABE • [*Beat.*] No, I don't think that's it.

HOWIE • Oh. Well, I can't imagine the word you say matters
much, as long as the rest of the trick is in place. Does
your hat have a false bottom? Is the rabbit inside
already?

ABE • What do you mean? I asked him what the trick was,
and he said you just had to know the magic words.

HOWIE • Abe, you know that illusionists can't really make
rabbits appear out of nowhere, right? Illusionists
just make it look like something impossible has
happened. Only God can do what is impossible for
humans to do. That's called a *miracle*.

ABE • Actually, that's a really good point. Maybe Gary just
didn't want to share his trick.

HOWIE • Probably. He likely wants people to think it's some
kind of real power; maybe he doesn't know you are
also an illusionist and not just a fan. Lucky for you,
we will still get to hear about something astounding.
Today's story is about a miracle that God the Holy
Spirit used two men to perform.

Big picture question (1 min.)

ABE • That reminds me of our big picture question. *What
does the Holy Spirit do?* We know He can help
people speak in different languages.

HOWIE • He does a lot of other things, too! Today we will
hear how He helped Peter and John heal a man who

• Big Picture Question
Poster

could not walk. But whatever the Holy Spirit does, He is always helping Christians follow Jesus. ***What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.***

Giant timeline (1 min.)

• Giant Timeline

HOWIE • Let's see where this story happens in our giant timeline. After Jesus lived a perfect life and died in our place for our sins, He rose again and gave His disciples instructions to share His good news. Next He ascended into heaven. During this unit, we are talking about the time just after Jesus ascended, and seeing how the Holy Spirit gave the apostles power to spread the gospel.

ABE • Last week, we learned that God the Holy Spirit came and helped the apostles share the good news with a whole crowd of people!

HOWIE • Good memory, Abe. And the Holy Spirit will continue to play a huge part in our stories this unit. Today's story is about how the Holy Spirit helped Peter heal a man who couldn't walk.

Tell the Bible story (10 min.)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- "Peter Healed a Beggar" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster

Open your Bible to Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or watch the Bible story video "Peter Healed a Beggar."

ABE • Do you think Gary the Great made a rabbit appear by saying, "In the name of Jesus, let a rabbit come out of this hat"?

HOWIE • Abe, I think you missed the point of the story! The man wasn't healed just because Peter and John said "In the name of Jesus..."

ABE • But **in Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could**

not walk.

HOWIE • Yes, that's true, but the man wasn't healed just because they said the words. The Holy Spirit gave them the power to heal that man. The Holy Spirit can use men and women to do miracles to help others follow Jesus. Don't forget our big picture question: *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.*

ABE • I think I'm beginning to understand. No one can do something impossible without the help of the Holy Spirit. And *the Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.* Healing the man helped that man—and others—praise God. Pulling a rabbit out of a hat is just a trick I'm trying to do to impress people, so the Holy Spirit probably won't step in to help me bring glory to myself.

HOWIE • Probably not, Abe. But you don't have to do something impossible for us to like you. We're glad you're our friend!

ABE • Well, thanks! I'm just glad I am starting to understand how the Holy Spirit helps people, and why.

HOWIE • The Holy Spirit does what He does to bring people closer to God and glorify Jesus.

Christ connection

ABE • Let me try and summarize what happened in today's lesson. After Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to keep working. With the power of Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who was unable to walk. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus' followers from sharing the good news about Jesus. What exactly is the good news about Jesus, Howie?

HOWIE • Well, let me start with the bad news. Everyone

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

is a sinner because everyone has done things that displease God. That sin had to be paid for, so Jesus lived a perfect life in our place and then died on the cross for our sin. If we believe that Jesus died for us and turn away from our sin, God sends the Holy Spirit to help us obey Jesus.

Group demonstration (5 min.)

- dry sponge
- ice cube
- plastic cup
- clear cup
- water

ABE • You know, I think I may have an illusion to demonstrate the Holy Spirit's use of miracles.

HOWIE • Really? Would you like to show us?

Before this demonstration, glue a thick, dry sponge into the bottom of a plastic cup. During the session, place an ice cube into the cup on top of the sponge. You will also need a clear plastic cup with a little bit of water in it; the amount of water should be small enough for the sponge to completely absorb without dripping.

Show the kids the water, slosh it around, and then pour it into the cup with the sponge hidden in the bottom. The water should soak into the sponge. Then, close your eyes as though concentrating very hard, and move your hands around the glass, clenching your fists tightly. When you open your eyes, tip the sponge cup over allowing the ice cube to fall out.

HOWIE • Wow! You caused that water to solidify in the cup!
That was amazing!

ABE • I think you mean *astounding*.

HOWIE • Haha! Either way, I think it was a cool illusion. It reminded me that the Holy Spirit's power helps to solidify people's faith. He gives people the strength they need to obey Jesus and share the gospel

ABE • That's exactly my point. I'm glad you understood my illusion. So, who wants to know how it's done?
[*Reveal the secret to the illusion.*]

Review (4 min.)

HOWIE • Thanks for telling us your secret, Abe. It's important to remember that your illusions are fun, but the Holy Spirit's power is real. Let's review.

Invite the kids to answer the following questions:

1. What did the man by the temple ask Peter and John for? (*money, Acts 3:2-3*)
2. What did Peter and John say before the man was healed? (*"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk"; Acts 3:6*)
3. What did the religious leaders tell Peter and John to do? (*to never preach and teach in the name of Jesus again, Acts 4:18*)
4. What did Peter and John say in response to this? (*They could not keep quiet about Jesus, Acts 4:20*)
5. What does this story teach me about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or the gospel?
6. What does the story teach me about myself?
7. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
8. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
9. How does this story help me to live on mission better?
10. ***What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.***

Key passage (5 min.)

HOWIE • Great job, everyone! You know what would be astounding? If one of you had our key passage memorized!

Read Philippians 2:13 a few times as a group and encourage the kids to read along in their Bibles. Display the key passage for kids to read it. After a few times, ask if there are

- Key Passage Poster
- "His Good Purpose" song

any volunteers to say the key passage from memory. You may also sing the key passage.

Group game (5–10 min.)

JUMP FOR JOY

ABE • Let's play a game!

HOWIE • Sure, Abe! What are you thinking?

Form a few different groups of kids, and assign each group a number. When you say a group's number, they must jump. The last kid in each group to jump must sit. Any kid who jumps when his number has not been said must sit. Say the different numbers in a random order, occasionally throwing in nonsense words that rhyme with other numbers. Recruit other leaders to help you keep track of which kids are late to respond. The last kids in each group will go head to head against each other.

ABE • **In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk.** That man immediately got up and began walking, jumping, and praising God. He didn't wait! He saw what the Holy Spirit had done and praised God. Others who saw him praised God too.

HOWIE • Not everyone who heard about what happened praised God though. Some men wanted to silence Peter and John. But they refused to be silent, and said that they had to keep telling people about what they had seen and heard from God.

Sing and offering (3–12 min.)

HOWIE • It's no surprise the man who was healed was praising God! God certainly is worthy of praise. Let's sing together to Him now!

Sing "The Story." Choose other songs as time allows.

Song suggestions:

- "The Story" song (unit theme)

• "The Story" song and other songs of your choice

- “I Will Stand” song
- “Mighty Healer” song
- “Stronger” song
- “Mighty Fortress (Our God Is Faithful)” song

Missions (6 min.)

ABE • Hey, Howie, hearing about how Peter and John could not keep quiet about Jesus reminds me of the missions video we watched last week. Any chance you’ve got another one of those videos we could watch together?

HOWIE • We certainly do, Abe. Let’s see how these Christians share about Jesus with people who don’t know Him.

Show the missions video “Being Bold.”

- “Being Bold” missions video
- “Missions Prayer Cards” printables, 1 per kid

Announcements (2 min.)

HOWIE • Well, Abe, even if you can’t do the impossible and pull a rabbit out of an empty hat, I still feel pretty astounded by what we’ve learned today.

ABE • Me too. Thanks for helping me understand the difference between an illusion and a miracle! I’ll be back next week with more illusions for you.

HOWIE • Sounds great, Abe. Before we leave, let’s share these important announcements.

Make any announcements from your kids’ ministry.

Prayer (2 min.)

ABE • Let’s pray.

Lord, You are the only One who can do the impossible. Thank You for teaching us that today. We ask that You would help all of us Christians follow Jesus, and those who don’t yet know Jesus as the Savior would come to know that He saved them

from their sins. Amen.

Additional idea

ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS

Help the kids to pair off. Each pair of kids will stand back to back, count to three, and then turn around to reveal a closed fist, an open hand, or two fingers, to represent a rock, a sheet of paper, or a pair of scissors. Rock beats scissors, paper beats rock, and scissors beats paper. Each kid who loses two out of three rounds in the match-up will sit, and the winner will find another partner to play again. Repeat this process until there is only one pair left.

HOWIE • In this game, you have to guess what your opponent will play and play whatever can beat it. If your partner throws out something unexpected, it's probably bad.

ABE • In our Bible story, the man who could not walk wanted Peter and John to give him money, but what they gave him was even better! **In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk.** He did not expect that outcome, but it was much better than what he asked for.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.