

Peter And John Heal A Lame Man

Acts 3:1-26

MEMORY VERSE

ACTS 3:6

Then Peter said, "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."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many long strips of paper as the number of children in your class, 2 - 3
"foot shaped" stamps and stamp pads.

As many finger puppet models as the number of children in your class, crayons or markers, and scissors.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

He Ain't Heavy

Divide your class in half for a relay. Have the first two children on each team grab both their partner's wrists (facing each other and forming an "X" with their hands). The third person must sit on the other pairs joined hands (be sensitive to have lighter children be the passengers). Have the team carry their passenger across the room and back, competing with the other team. Make it a relay race so that every student gets a chance to participate.

Explain to the class that today we are going to learn about a lame man who had to be carried everywhere he went. But something very exciting happened in his life. Let's find out what it was.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever seen someone begging on a street corner? Maybe they held a sign that said, "Will work for food," or maybe they were homeless or handicapped in some way and the only way they could get help was to ask others for some change.

In Bible days they didn't have welfare or any kind of government assistance. If a person was handicapped, he became an outcast. Everyone just wrote them off as being useless to society. Either their family supported them, or they had to sit by a busy street and beg for food. People looked down on them. It was believed back then by many that being disabled was caused by a great sin either by the one's parents or the disabled person himself, which is untrue. It was a very sad life to have to live.

One day as Peter and John were going to the Temple to pray, they saw a man who had been crippled from birth. Jesus had given the disciples power in His name, through the Holy Spirit, to be able to perform miracles. Jesus is all-powerful and He still performs miracles today. **With God all things are possible.**

Today we are going learn about this man that Peter and John met on the street and how his life would change forever. Our lives can change also when we come into contact with Jesus. We will also learn that God wants to use our lives to serve and minister to others. We see people who have needs all around us, how can we reach out and help them in Jesus' name?

ACTS 3:1-5

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

The crippled man was sitting by the entrance to the temple. He was begging for food. When he got Peter's and John's attention, he expected them to give him some money. This was how he lived and was able to eat every day. He was at a place that was very busy with many people coming to worship the Lord.

The lame man on this day had no idea what was about to happen to him. It was just another miserable day in his life, another day of suffering and begging and hoping that someone would help him. Little did he know that Jesus wanted to help him very much and would do something miraculous.

We can learn from this story: no matter how bad our situation may be Jesus is always willing to help us. He may do different things in all of our lives, but He wants to help us very much. Let's remember that we can always turn to Jesus. **With God all things are possible.**

ACTS 3:6-7

Then Peter said, "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."

And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Peter told him that he didn't have any money, but he would gladly give him what he did have. What he gave him money couldn't buy, a miracle! He told him in Jesus' name to stand up and walk. His feet and ankles became well.

Can you imagine being that lame man on that day? How with just one phrase spoken by Peter he receives the strength he needs to be able to walk again. In a moment everything changed for this lame man. That's how it is when we come into contact with Jesus, when He saves us. In a moment our entire lives change. We all need to come to Jesus.

Notice that Peter did this miracle in the name of Jesus. There was no way that he could do it in his own strength. But He was representing Jesus and this is what Jesus wanted to do in this man's life. When we serve others in the name of Jesus we will see Jesus do great things as well. **With God all things are possible.**

ACTS 3:8

So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.

Walk His Path

Give each of your students a long strip of paper. You will also need 2 or 3 foot-shaped stamps and stamp pads. Have each child draw the temple on one side of the paper and the beautiful gate on the other. Then allow them to stamp footprints from the gate to the temple, making a path that the healed lame man might have taken while he was leaping and running into the temple.

The man had never walked before in his life. He jumped up and began to walk. He became very excited. He went with Peter and John into the temple. He started walking, jumping and praising God. We can only imagine how excited he must have been when he was able to walk again. **With God all things are possible.**

Think of a time in your life when God did something amazing in your life. Can you remember how excited you were? God is doing amazing things all of the time. Following Jesus is an exciting life to live!

ACTS 3:9-11

And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.

When the people saw His excitement, they recognized him as the man who had been begging from them for years. They ran over to see what had happened to him. They were astonished. He was walking, jumping around, and praising God. His shriveled legs had been made whole. They became very surprised. How could this happen?

When Jesus does something wonderful in our lives, other people see it and are amazed. When we come to Jesus, He changes our life which will change the way we act around others. Instead of being selfish we are going to be giving and loving. Others will see Jesus in us and wonder what happened. **With God all things are possible.**

ACTS 3:12

So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

Peter asked the crowd why they were so surprised. Did they think they had done this by their own power and godliness? He then explained to the crowd what happened. Peter is now going to take the attention off of him for performing this miracle and point their attention to Jesus.

How important that when God does something through us that we don't take credit for it. We need to point to Jesus and tell others that anything good in our lives comes from Him. **With God all things are possible.**

ACTS 3:13-16

"The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go.

But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."

Peter explained that it was in Jesus' name that the crippled man was healed. He gave the glory to the Lord. Peter used this opportunity to explain that Jesus was the very one that they had rejected and killed. He told the crowd the good news that God raised Jesus from the dead with power and glory. **With God all things are possible.**

ACTS 3:17-20

"Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before..."

Peter told the people that he knew that they didn't understand what they had done. Jesus' death on the cross for our sins was how God fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament so that we could be forgiven. He told them to repent and turn to God. Jesus is the promised One, the Messiah, Who had been sent to save them and forgive them for their sins.

ACTS 3:21

"...whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

Christ Jesus has returned to heaven where He will remain until the time comes for God to restore everything. Then Jesus will return again. What a wonderful promise! Jesus is coming back for us.

ACTS 3:22-23

"For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.

And it shall come to pass that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'"

Moses told about God sending Jesus, born of the Jewish race, to lead the people to God. We need to understand, just like the people who Peter was preaching to, that God has given His Son Jesus to die for our sins. There is no other way to heaven. If we reject Jesus then we are rejecting God and rejecting heaven.

ACTS 3:24-25

"Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.

You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"

God had spoken about what was to come through the prophets throughout the years. If we follow Jesus, we are God's children and inherit all the promises God made through Jesus; through Jesus all the people on Earth could be blessed.

ACTS 3:26

"To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

God has done everything possible to allow us to have a relationship with Him. When God sent Jesus, His plan was to have Him go to the cross to die for our sins so that we could turn from our wrong living and have eternal life. Peter wanted the people here to understand that God has provided the way of salvation. Just as the Lord wants us today to understand the way of salvation and eternal life is through Jesus Christ only. There is no other way.

Peter started the story by healing the crippled man by the power of Jesus. He then explained that without Christ we are outcasts too. If we are not following Jesus we are crippled spiritually. We need the power of Jesus to heal us and to turn our life around so that we can live a life pleasing to Him. He will then bless us with peace and joy while on earth and give us eternal life. **With God all things are possible.**

The Lame Man Puppet

Have your class cut out the "lame man" finger puppet from the model provided. With crayons or markers, have your class decorate their puppets. Allow them a time to re-enact the story of Peter healing the lame man.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving and acknowledgement that He can do all things. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.

Template - Lame Man Puppet

