



Series: The Spirit Moves

Week 1: Peter's Power

Overview of the Lesson

Video: Be sure to check out the video above for a brief introduction to the study and some brief reflections on the passage.

Scripture: Primary text: Acts 3:1-16

Supporting texts: Acts 1 and 2

Age Specific Breakdown:

- Preschool – Page 2
- Children – Page 3-4
- Avenue 56 – Page 4
- Youth – Page 5
- College – Pages 6-9
- Activity Pages – 10-13

Family Activity/Prayer: Today we invite your family to recite out loud Dr. Barnette's weekly benediction. As you know, the end is always tailored to the message from the sermon. So, we've added a little piece at the end related to Jesus's triumphal entry.

Depart now in the fellowship of God the Father.

And as you go remember:

That by the goodness of God you were born into this world,
And by the grace of God you have been kept all the day long,
Even until this very hour.

And by the love of God fully revealed in the face of Jesus Christ,
You have been redeemed and you are being redeemed

And so go,

Claiming the power of the name of the risen and ascended savior. Amen.

Preschool

Preschool: Peter's Power

Lesson: Acts 3:1-16—Please read the scripture from the Bible or a Bible Storybook. The attachments are at the very end of the Weekly Word. (See attachment #1 below, See attachment #2 below - lesson), (See attachment #3 below - teaching picture)

Follow Up Questions:

1. Where had Jesus gone?
2. What did He send to earth to be our Helper?
3. What did the lame man ask Peter and John to give him?
4. What did Peter say?
5. What did Peter do?
6. Who made the man's legs strong?
7. What did the man do when his legs were made strong?

Reinforcing Activities:

Ask your preschooler to lie down on the floor, and then to tell you what they see when a family member walks by. They will see mostly legs. Legs that can hop, skip, run and walk. Legs that are strong and healthy. Ask your preschooler to name all the things they couldn't do if their legs didn't work. Color the #4 coloring sheet. Ask why is the man in the picture so happy?

Family Activities:

The Holy Spirit can work through us when we need to do hard things that make Jesus happy. Refer to the ** explanation of the Holy Spirit in last week's Weekly Word that is stated below. How does doing good things show God's love? Ask each family member to name something they can ask the Holy Spirit to help them to do-STOP/PRAY/OBEY. For example, be kind to someone who on the playground breaks in line for the slide.

Prayer: Dear God, we are amazed at your power and the great things we can do through you. Please show us ways that we can show people around us your love. We pray that people will understand how much Jesus loves them when we do good things for them. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Gather materials that are lightweight and can be easily blown. For example, packing foam peanuts, bits of rolled paper, dandelion etc. Ask each family member to blow one of these lightweight objects. Ask the following questions: What made the object fly around? Air of course-- Can you see the air? No-- But can you see what the air does? Yes— When Jesus ascended into heaven, He left us a Helper, His Holy Spirit, to live in our hearts and to be with us wherever we go. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can know what He does.

Children

Peter Heals a Lame Man (Acts 3:1-10).

Before beginning, ask your child (and other family members) to share at least one way that they have seen or been a helper during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read today's scripture together (Acts 3:1-10). In Acts 3, a crippled man is sitting by the temple gates begging for spare change. When Peter sees the man, he takes the opportunity to share more than gold and silver with him. Peter tells the man about Jesus. The man is healed and responds by praising God. Like Peter, we should always be ready to help those in need, and when we help those in need it is imperative that we teach them about Jesus, the true source of healing. Encourage your child to continue looking for ways to help others while sharing about Jesus' love for us.

Bible skills development:

- Write the books of the New Testament on separate cards and spread out on the floor or table. Each family member chooses a card and tries to put all the cards in order. As you are playing, remind your child that the Bible is divided into 2 main divisions (Old Testament and New Testament) and that each of those divisions is divided into smaller divisions (New Testament is divided into Gospels, History, Paul's Letters, General Letters and Prophecy). This month we will be studying stories from the one book of History in the New Testament: Acts. The New Testament teaches the good news about Jesus and tells about people called by God to tell others about Jesus. The book of Acts tells about the early church that began after Jesus' resurrection.

Bible story review: Ask the following questions to review:

1. What was the man who couldn't walk doing sitting by the gate to the temple? (Begging for money)
2. When the man who couldn't walk asked Peter and John for money, what did they give him instead? (In the name of Jesus, they gave him the ability to walk.)
3. What did the man who couldn't walk do after Peter healed him? (He got up and then began walking, jumping, and praising God.)
4. What did the Jewish leaders do to Peter and John after they healed the man who couldn't walk man? (Had them arrested and put in prison overnight.)
5. When the Jewish leaders told Peter and John to stop preaching about Jesus, what did they say? (Peter and John asked if it was better to obey God or men. Then they said that they could not help speaking about what they had seen and heard.)

Live it Out:

Say, When the crippled beggar saw Peter the most he was hoping for was a few pennies, but God had over plans for his life. Peter showed him who the true healer was and that is Jesus Christ. Through Jesus and amazing thing was done in the life of that man. He was healed physically and was finally able to walk. Isn't that amazing? When the man was healed he praised God for healing him. What are some things that you can thank God for in your life? What has God done for you? Everyone sit in a circle and toss a beach ball back and forth. When the ball is caught, you must say something that God has done in your life this week or name something that you are thankful for.

Closing: Close the lesson by praying and thanking God for all of the things that He has done in your family. Ask God to be with you throughout the week and that you would be encouraged to tell others about Jesus.

Avenue 56

Peter's Power: Read Acts 3:1-16. Encourage your student to read portions of the scripture out loud and help with words or phrases about which they might be confused.

2 W and an H Question:

Review with your student WHAT was in the story. Ask general questions for a recap of the scripture you just read. Some examples would be:

Where does this story take place?

Who are the people that are present in the story?

Why did the man in the story need healing?

What do you think was going through the crowd's mind when Peter spoke to them?

Take a few moments to remind the students of the conversation that Jesus had with Peter on the beach. Ask your students Why both of these stories are important for the church today? The work of the church did not end when Jesus went back to heaven, He simply trusted people like Peter, and us, to continue the ministry that Jesus started.

Finally, ask your students HOW this story applies to their life today? Peter and John continued the work that Jesus did. They healed the sick and cared for those that needed love. What ways can your student care for the "least of these"

Pray with your student thanking God for allowing us to participate in his mission. Ask God for opportunities to serve others and show them God's love.

Youth

We begin a new series this week looking at the work of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts. Acts is sort of “history book” of the first years of the birth of the church. Throughout, we will encounter some of the most well-known figures of the church. In particular, we’ll hear the stories of Peter and Paul. This week, we open with the story of Peter and John healing the man who couldn’t walk. As we read Acts remember that Acts 1-2 have set the framework for what is happening. Jesus has ascended to God’s right hand (Acts 1), he has called us to go to the whole world and tell the good news (Acts 1), and the Holy Spirit has been poured out. Over and over again in Acts we will see the Spirit work in incredible ways. That same Spirit is alive and working in us, in our world, in our communities just as it was in the book of Acts. My hope is that you might know that Spirit more intimately in the weeks ahead.

Introductory Questions:

1. When you hear the name “Holy Spirit” what comes to mind for you? What images, words, or verses do you think of?
2. Do you ever find it uncomfortable to talk about the Spirit? Why or why not?
3. What do you think of miracles? Do you think they still happen today? Can you think of any you’ve seen?

Digging Deep: Read Acts 3:1-16 together. It would be worth your time to actually go back and read Acts 1 and 2 before beginning. We’ll return to Acts 2 later in this study.

Ask:

1. Where were Peter and John going at the start of this passage? Why might this matter?
2. What does Peter offer the man? How might this address his physical need as well?
3. When was the last time you were filled with “wonder and amazement” (v.10) at something God had done?
4. In vv. 11-16 Peter is explicit about how this miracle happened. He makes sure the people know it is only through Jesus, the risen and ascended Jesus, that this man was made whole. What does it look like to have this kind of faith?
5. Why is it important that Peter identifies God as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?
6. What is something you need to ask for healing for? What is something God can use you to bring healing to?

Reflect: As you wrap up today, take a moment and be still. Simply ask the Holy Spirit to sit with you. Listen. What is God trying to tell you? Now, take a few minutes and give to God your fears, worries, or concerns. Ask God to strengthen your faith. Ask God to help you claim the power of the Spirit today.

College

The Spirit Moves: Peter Heals a Lame Man

For the next six weeks, all of Brookwood's student ministries will be looking at the book of Acts, which makes perfect sense as we transition away from the events of the Easter story. In Acts, we see how faith in Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension grew and spread, first primarily with the Jews and then secondly with the Gentiles.

Acts is chalk full of unbelievable accounts of miracles, preaching, and of spreading the good news of Jesus. We will begin in Acts 3, and we will end in Acts 2 with Pentecost reflecting on how and why the Holy Spirit is so important to the Christian's and the church's mission. Sadly, we won't have the time to focus on everything in Acts, but we hope that, like always, you will spend time in God's Word and be led by the Spirit to see and believe how great the story of the early church actually is!

When I think of Acts in general, I think of 3 primary themes, or truths, that run throughout the course of the narrative: *witness, the church, and the Holy Spirit*. There are, of course, many more themes and truths that God wishes to convey through Acts, but these serve as a really helpful starting point.

1. Last week, we discussed Jesus' ascension to heaven in Acts 1. One of the points we looked at was that by Jesus' ascension, God's plan for salvation and redemption would move forward. Particularly, in John's gospel, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit and then in Acts 1:8 declares "you will be my *witnesses* in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Though Jesus left the world physically by ascending to heaven, he didn't abandon us. Instead, he left us the Holy Spirit. We talked last week about a witness- it is one who simply shares with another what he or she has seen, heard, or believed. Acts paints the picture of what our role ought to look like if we believe Christ rose from the dead. Just like the apostles, we testify to who Christ is, what he has done, and what he will do in the future!
2. If we're called to witness as Christians, then it is only fitting that God wants his witnesses to be together in community. Not only does the faith spread as a result of our witness, but it is also *built up*. This built-up community is the *church*. In Acts, we see what a witnessing community ought to look like. Believers share their possessions with one another, teach one another, eat together, worship together, and join in fellowship with each other (Acts 2:42-47). Acts (and the whole New Testament) reveals church isn't just "another group" to be a part of or a way to gain influence or to fit in, but it is rather a *set-apart community*. The church exists so that Christians across all times and places grow in their identity that is given by the Lord himself and to worship him alone.
3. Finally, Acts calls us to see and believe in the Holy Spirit's work not only in the time in which Acts was written but *today*. The Holy Spirit is the "fuel" by which we as Christians can witness and the way that the church can function as God's chosen community on earth. In Acts, the Holy Spirit takes front and center stage. And remember, this is how God the Father and Christ the Son wanted it to be! As awesome as the book of Acts is, we miss it entirely if we think our effort or our belief alone can

do what God has purposed for the world. By and through the Spirit's work, we can, and are called, to participate in the work God is doing through the Holy Spirit!

Before you begin...

1. Reflect on a meaningful moment that you experienced on a mission trip serving someone. Why was it significant to you?
2. What does a miracle look like to you? Have you experienced one?

Read Acts 3:1-10

The first few chapters of Acts are some of the most exciting chapters in all of Scripture for me personally. Jesus has ascended, the disciples have to figure out what's next, and the Holy Spirit is left to dwell in God's creation for our benefit. Once the Spirit is poured out (2:1-13), Peter is called to preach the first sermon in the early church's history. By the Spirit's power, Peter's words "cut to the heart" (2:37) of the people. Three thousand came to faith that day (2:41). Then, we're given the picture-perfect description of what church and community should look like (2:42-47).

As awesome as the first two chapters of Acts are, we're reminded that there is still opposition to the faith and that everyone and everything is still in desperate need of God's redemption. At this point, it's important to note that Peter and John, who were going to the Temple, still practiced the Jewish faith. They intended to pray and worship at the Temple, but they weren't about to miss an opportunity to serve as the Lord's witnesses. As it happened, a man lame from birth was lying at the temple gate called Beautiful. We're not exactly sure where this gate was located (because the Temple and the ground surrounding it were huge!) but we're confident that enough traffic came in and out of this gate so that beggars like the lame man could receive money from those who passed-by.

Luke makes a point that it was three in the afternoon; this was a popular time to come pray and worship at the Temple. Put yourself in place of the lame man: can you imagine coming to the Temple to beg? The lame man was an outcast in society with seemingly no hope and no future. It's entirely possible others were using the lame man to make a profit for themselves because they knew they could exploit his condition and take his money. Whatever the case was, we know the lame man was completely dependent on the generosity of others to try to make ends meet.

Notice that Peter and John look straight at him, and they expect the lame man to look straight at them. Even if people who came to the Temple gave the man money, they often didn't want to simply look at him. He was lame, disfigured, and probably smelled awful. I love that Peter and John look at him because, before anything else, they acknowledge the lame man's *basic humanity*. While Peter and John had a message and a miracle to share with him, it was important that Peter, John, and the lame man recognize that they all shared common ground. Each of them, and all of us, are made in God's image (Genesis 1:27).

The lame man probably thought Peter and John were like all the others who would pass him by and maybe give him some money. Outwardly, Peter and John were similar to all the other

Jewish worshippers who came to the Temple. But as we know, Peter and John had a message to give and a new way of life that must be shared. Both knew their roles as witnesses to Jesus. What they have seen, experienced, believed, and known must be shared everyone, especially those like the lame man who live on the margins of society.

Peter and John realized money wasn't going to alleviate the lame man's condition. But they also knew their words without any sort of action would be dead (James 2:17). Through Jesus' name, they command the lame man to stand up. I think we often misuse words and names today. How can we say we "love" Netflix and say we "love" a family member or friend? How can we say the new restaurant is "awesome" and say the view from atop the Grand Canyon is "awesome" too? We unfortunately misuse words to say what we think and feel. Here, I think we see that even the *name* of Jesus Christ carries with it power and glory. If Peter and John dared use the Lord's name, they knew it would be completely effective and sufficient to help the lame man. So we need to ask ourselves: Do we carry the name of Jesus well? Do we believe his very name can cause the lame to walk? Through the Holy Spirit, we are assured that it can and will!

The healing of the lame man is one of the earliest recorded miracles performed by the apostles. I think we can grasp how Jesus performed miracles since he is 100% God. I think it might be harder to grasp how the apostles could have performed miracles like this. We might also think that this was close to 2,000 years ago and that miracles could happen then but not now. But consider what C.S. Lewis says,

"It is therefore inaccurate to define a miracle as something that breaks the law of nature. It doesn't. The divine art of miracle is not an art of suspending the pattern to which events conform but of feeding new events into that pattern."

Lewis is basically saying that since God made and blessed creation, he has every right to order it how he sees fit. Miracles happen within creation, and if that's so, then we are free to believe miracles can and will happen. Peter and John were confident in their faith and their witness. It wasn't up to them for the miracle to happen. It was up to the Holy Spirit who God sent as our Advocate and Comforter.

As I read the healing of the lame man this time around, I couldn't help but think of missions experiences I have had. I can think of so many kids, women, and men who I've had Gospel conversations with, played with, and prayed with. As I think back, I hope I demonstrated the name of Jesus Christ well. I pray that my presence in those experiences ministered to those who I got to know just like they ministered to me. And I hope that our shared dependency on God gave us the gift of a miracle to each other, even if we didn't fully realize it or understand it.

Questions to Consider:

1. If you heard a story of a miraculous healing today like the one in our passage, would you readily believe it? Why or why not?
2. If you've served on a mission trip, what similarities or parallels do you see in this passage and in your missions experience?

3. Depending on where you live and your rhythm of life, where is your “temple gate called Beautiful?” In other words, where and how can you serve others as “you pass them by” or as they “pass you by?”
4. Like Peter and John, how can you serve and help others when you don’t have money to give or, in your judgement, it may not be best to give them money?
5. Do you think the lame man was defined by his past circumstances as a beggar, his healing at the hands of Peter, by both, or by neither?
6. Why was it important that all the people recognized the lame man when he started walking and praising God?

Introduction

Give coins to several volunteers. Show bowl and invite volunteers to put coins into the bowl. **In Bible times, people who couldn't work often asked for money and for help by holding out a bowl. Listen to hear what kind of help one man received.** (Hold your Bible open to Acts 3 as you tell the following story.)



A Lame Man

Once there was a man who couldn't walk. His legs were lame. That means they didn't work. This poor man couldn't even stand up.

Every day the lame man sat by the Temple. The Temple was the place where many people went to pray and learn about God. As people walked into the Temple, the man asked them for money so that he could buy food.

Peter and John

One day Jesus' friends Peter and John walked up the hill to the Temple. Peter and John heard someone call, "Please give me some money." They stopped. They looked down. They saw the lame man sitting on the ground.

Peter and John knew that God's Word said to help others. They wanted to obey God's Word and help the man. "I have no money," Peter said, "but I do have something to give you." Peter reached out and took the man's hand. Peter said, "In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk!" Then he pulled the man to his feet.

A Happy Man

Suddenly, the lame man's feet and legs were strong! The man began to walk! Then the man began to skip and jump and hop and RUN! He was so happy!

The man went jumping and running into the Temple with Peter and John. The man told everyone what had happened. "I can walk! Thank You, God!" said the man.

Amazed People

The people at the Temple saw the man walking. They thought Peter and John had made the man walk. But Peter told them, "We did not make this man walk. Jesus made his legs strong." Peter told all the people in the Temple about Jesus. And the man who now could walk learned about Jesus, too.

Conclusion

The lame man was so glad that Peter and John had obeyed God's Word and helped him. We can obey God's Word and help others, too. The Bible says, "Hear the word of God and obey it." (Optional: Review story by using pages 450-453 in *God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.)

Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

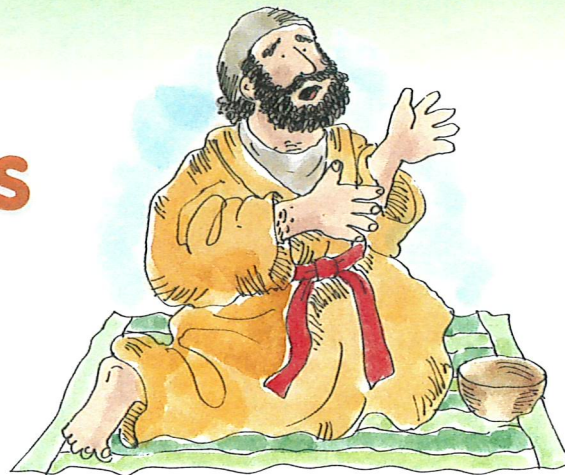
Use toy people to show the Bible story actions. Set up blocks to represent the Temple. (If your group is small, invite children to sit in a circle on the floor so that all children can see you move toy people. For a large group, move toy people on a high table.)

The Lame Man Walks

Acts 3:1-16

Once my legs could not **walk** or **run**.
I could not work or help my friends.
I could only **lie** on a mat.
So I lay by the Temple gate.

Every day people **walked** past me.
Every day I asked them for money
so that I could buy food and clothes.
One day, two men **walked** up to me.
I asked for money, like I always did.
One man said, "Look at us."
I looked up. *Would he give me money?*



Use your fingers to imitate legs doing story actions in colored type. Invite your child to do actions with you.



The man who **walked** up to me was Peter.
He looked into my eyes.
He said, "I have no money to give you.
But I'll give you what I DO have.
In Jesus' name, **walk!**"
Peter pulled me to my feet.
My legs were strong! I **STOOD!**
I could **tiptoe**. I could **march**.
I could **skip**. I could **jump!**
I **walked** into the Temple all by myself!
I surprised everyone!
Peter and John obeyed God.
They helped me.
And God made my legs **walk!**



“For we are God’s masterpiece”

(Ephesians 2:10a).



