

Acts 3



Gospel Opportunities

Life Group Leaders should read through this material and choose a few questions to talk over in your group. Your group will not have time to cover all the material. The guide is for personal study and for choosing a few questions that you and your life group would like to discuss.

Read Aloud Acts 3:1-10

Before we break down this section of Scripture, describe what is happening in your own words. (Being able to summarize Scripture is a great way to see if we are comprehending what we have just read.)

Acts 3:1-2

The Early Church Continued to Frequent the Temple. They did not go to the temple to offer sacrifices but to continue praying to God and even to evangelize to unbelieving Jews, as the Temple was the epicenter of the Jewish community.

! The Hour of Prayer — There were three times of prayer. The third hour was in the morning, the sixth hour was at noon, and the ninth hour was around 3 p.m. The ninth hour was during the evening sacrifice when the crowds would have been at their peak.

Psalm 55:17 *Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.*

The Lame Man's Condition. The lame man who is healed in this scene is described as having to be carried, lying there daily, and having been lame from birth. This shows that he was incapable of moving himself. Due to lying there daily, he was known to those who frequented the temple. Finally, he had been disabled since his birth, meaning he was the “broken of the broken.”

! The Gospel describes our spiritual state before the Gospel as being “dead in our sin.” Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Many of Jesus’s miracles and the Apostle’s miracles centered around those counted as good as dead by society. Yet they were often the ones most hungry and full of faith for healing and restoration. However, this broken state is true of all of us from a spiritual perspective.

! **Describe a time in your life when God healed something that seemed to be beyond repair. This could be your salvation, a sickness that was healed, or a place of hurt or unforgiveness that you thought would never heal.**

Acts 3:3-10

A Change in Routine. Peter and John were doing something that was most likely a daily routine for them. However, this day was different; God had a miraculous step of obedience for them to take.



Question/Challenge: Ask God daily this week to provide an opportunity to glorify Him in your daily tasks. This may challenge you to get out of your comfort zone! The Holy Spirit may lead you to pray for someone, share your faith, pay for someone's meal, give someone a ride, etc. What, if anything, stops you from stepping out of your comfort zone for Christ?

Caring for True Need. Peter and John knew that this man needed more than money or even physical healing. He needed Jesus. As Peter prayed in the name of Jesus, this lame man leaped, fulfilling prophecies of the ministry of the Messiah. Luke uses the exact Greek equivalent of the wording that is found in Isaiah 35:3-6.

The power with which Peter and John did this miracle was evident. The Apostle prayed in the Name of Christ, the lame man praised God, and the people who saw and recognized the lame man were in amazement.



God can move in both small and large ways. However, it is important to recognize that God is willing and able to move in miraculous ways that challenge the status quo. When the power of the Gospel is evident, it is unlike anything else. We can experience positivity, which is great, but the power of the Gospel reaches more than positivity—it reaches the heart.



Question: It can be easy to believe that God can work through practical means, but it is harder to believe in God's miraculous power to heal bodies, save souls, renew minds, and heal hearts. Do you find yourself believing God for the impossible? Why or why not?

Read Aloud Acts 3:11-26

Describe what is happening in your own words.

Acts 3:11-26

Peter and John did not use this opportunity to glorify healing itself or their power to heal but rather to draw attention to the Person of Christ. Peter lays out several essential elements of the Gospel and how we can use our gifts for Jesus: 1. Not by Our Own Power, 2. Repentance and Forgiveness, 3. The Resurrection, 4. Faith in Christ, 5. God Foretold and 6. Times of Fulfillment

1 **Not by Our Own Power**

Peter makes it clear that he was not able to heal this man by his own strength or works. We have no power apart from Christ. 2 Corinthians 12:9-11, John 15:5, Galatians 5:19-21

2 **Repentance and Forgiveness:**

Peter calls these specific men to repent. We all played a part in Christ's crucifixion. It is our sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. We must take personal responsibility for our sins before receiving the Gospel. Romans 3:23, 1 John 1:9-10

In personal responsibility and repentance we may also experience the refreshing and empowerment of forgiveness. Psalm 103:12

3 **The Resurrection:**

Without Christ's resurrection, our faith is meaningless. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

4 **Faith in Christ:**

Faith is the power that brings healing. God offers healing and restoration by His grace and we access this by faith, by believing in His promises. Hebrews 11 is a great chapter that explains the power and necessity of faith.

5 **God Foretold:**

The Apostles based their faith on Christ's resurrection and the 300+ prophecies He fulfilled. Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 are great examples of clear prophecies fulfilled.

6 **Times of Fulfillment**

Peter explains that the former prophets were all speaking of the "current days" of the new covenant. The Gospel proclaimed also includes the promised Messianic Kingdom (New Heaven and New Earth) and eternal judgment: that those who do not trust in the Messiah will be destroyed.

Question: It is great to share our testimony, but it is also important to clearly articulate the truths of the Gospel. We should be able to communicate about the life of Christ, His death, His resurrection, the prophecies surrounding Jesus's life, the promise of judgment, and God's eternal kingdom. How confident do you feel in leading someone to Christ with the foundational truths of the Gospel on a scale of 1-10? Share why.

Peter relies heavily on the Scripture in his presentation of the Gospel. For further study, read through the following cross-references that were the basis of Peter's message.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Exodus 3:6

The Suffering Servant of God (reference to the Messiah) Isaiah 42, 49, 52, 53

The Holy One (Messianic Title) Psalm 16:10

Author of Life Psalm 36:9, Hebrews 2:10, 12:2, Revelation 22:13, Colossians 1:18, John 6:48

New Heaven and New Earth Revelation 21:1

Prophet Promised from Moses Deuteronomy 18

Call to Repent from Ignorance and False Worship Jeremiah 8:4-5, Ezekiel 14:6

Abraham's Offspring Being a Blessing Genesis 12:3, 22:18, 1 Kings 18:36, Romans 9:6, Galatians 3:6

The Prophets who spoke beforehand and were rejected Genesis 37:11-24, Exodus 2:14, 16:3, 32:1, 33, Numbers 14:4, 1 Kings 19:10, 2 Chronicles 36:16, Jeremiah 3:20

Weekly Challenge

The miraculous work of Christ gave Peter and John a platform. When the platform was given, the Apostles were ready to act and obey Christ. Each one of us has a platform. This could be a job, gift, or miraculous event. Regardless of the platform that we possess, we must be ready to obey. What do you see as a gift or platform God has given you? How can you be intentional in being ready to obey Him with this? Be specific; the more specific you are, the easier it is to be held accountable and follow through with your desire to serve Jesus.

Memory Verse

Acts 9:31 ESV

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.