

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.

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

With the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were empowered to carry 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.



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The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Peter Healed a Beggar

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

- **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.

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.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Introduce the STORY

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.

Welcome time

Tip: Be sensitive to kids for whom mobility impairment is a daily reality. Give those kids opportunities, if they want, to share their experience. Work to foster an environment of respect and understanding.

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them if they have ever needed crutches or a wheelchair to get around.

SAY • Today, inventions can help us get around if we cannot walk on our legs. Crutches and wheelchairs help all kinds of people move around. It used to be much harder for people who could not walk to get around. In our story today, we will hear about the amazing way God showed His power through a man who could not walk.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Hidden Healing” activity page by finding the six hidden pictures in the Bible story art.

SAY • On our activity page you had to find a bunch of different items hidden in the picture. Each item is something we use to help people heal when their bodies aren't working quite right. In our story today, we will learn about a time Peter healed a man without any of the hidden objects. What do you

- “Hidden Healing” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

think Peter used to heal the man?

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Sickness charade

Gather the kids and take volunteers who want to come to the front and act out different sicknesses. One at a time, whisper an ailment or symptom to each volunteer. They must act out the symptom until a classmate guesses it correctly.

Example symptoms: a cough, a stomachache, a headache, sneezing, dizziness, chills, and so forth.

SAY • The world we live in is broken by sin. Sickness is an example of the brokenness. We all face sickness sometimes. In our story today we will hear about a time Peter showed God's power is greater than sickness.

OPTION 2: Would you rather?

Use the tape to mark a line down the center of the room. Provide the kids with different choices, designating a side of the room for each option. Kids will rush to the side of the room that corresponds with their chosen option.

Suggestions: Would you rather have \$1,000,000 now or \$10,000 dollars a year for 100 years? Would you rather be good at soccer or be good at dancing? Would you rather have to sing all your words or never be able to sing?

SAY • Those were some silly choices to find out what you would rather have. Today, we will learn about a man who asked for one thing but got something else that he was much happier with.



• masking or painter's tape

Transition to teach the story

Teach the STORY

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Countdown

• countdown video

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

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

• small book

[Leader enters dressed in black and carrying a small handbook. He or she is flipping through it.]

LEADER • Hey, everyone! I'm glad you were able to join me again today. You may remember that I am an illusionist. I try to make it look like impossible things are happening before your eyes. I don't use any kind of secret powers, I just use neat tricks to fool your eyes into seeing something that isn't as it seems. I was just getting ready to practice a new illusion. Would you all like to see it? All right! Check this out!

Quickly make a fist with one hand, tucking your thumb down and wrapping your other fingers over it. Put your other thumb between the first and second fingers on that hand so that your index finger is wrapped around the base of your thumb. Touch the base of that thumb to the base of the thumb tucked into your other fist. It should look as though you are giving a thumbs-up with one hand,

grabbing the thumb with your other hand. Slowly lift your second thumb away from the hand where your other thumb is hidden. It will appear as though you have pulled your thumb off.

LEADER • I admit, that one gave me the heebie-jeebies the first time I saw it. But, once I learned how it was done and saw that you don't have to pull off any fingers to do it, I thought it was pretty cool looking.

As you know, I don't use any secret power to do my illusions. They are simple tricks that are designed to fool your eyes. My thumb wasn't really broken, so I didn't really have to heal it. However, today we will hear a story about a man who could not walk, and the way the apostle Peter used real power from the Holy Spirit to change that man's life.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • We have been talking about the Holy Spirit. He is the Third Person of the Trinity. Our God is one God, and He exists in three persons. We have talked quite a bit about God the Father and also about His Son, Jesus, in the past. Now we are trying to answer the question: *What does the Holy Spirit do?* Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow responses.] That's right. *The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.*

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle.

LEADER • Last week we talked about the apostles, the men God chose for a special mission, on the Day of Pentecost. We learned that **the Holy Spirit came to**

• Giant Timeline or
Big Story Circle

the apostles on the Day of Pentecost. He helped them speak many languages so everyone could understand the message of Jesus. Peter preached about Jesus and 3,000 people believed. This week we will hear about another way Peter used the Holy Spirit's power. Our story is called "Peter Healed a Beggar."

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

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 show the Bible story video "Peter Healed a Beggar."

LEADER • After the Holy Spirit came, the early church began to grow quickly as the Spirit helped believers obey Jesus by spreading the gospel. Peter and John were Christians, but they were also Jewish. They went to the temple to pray and probably to tell others about Jesus.

On their way into the temple, a man who could not walk stopped them. He was asking for money. You see, in those days, most work required a person be able to walk and maybe even lift heavy things. People who could not walk would have trouble earning money to buy the things they needed. So this particular man was a beggar, asking other people to give him money so he could afford the things he needed. But Peter did not have any money to give the man. Instead, Peter gave him something better!

In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk. The man got up and began jumping and praising God. The people who saw him were amazed! Who knows how many times they had passed this

- Bibles
- "Peter Healed a Beggar" video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

man and seen him begging for money? Peter told everyone that the power of this miracle came from God. If God had the power to raise Jesus from the dead, it should not have surprised them that God had the power to heal this beggar.

The religious leaders didn't like Peter and John talking about Jesus, but Peter and John refused to stay quiet. They had to tell others about the love of God!

Christ connection

LEADER • 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. When we trust in Jesus, the same Holy Spirit that worked through Jesus' followers lives and works in us.

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.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Philippians 2:13.

LEADER • When the apostles performed miracles with power from the Holy Spirit, they were glorifying God, not trying to glorify themselves. Our key passage is Paul's reminder to the Philippians that when they obeyed God, it was by God's power and to do God's work according to God's good purpose.

Lead boys and girls in singing "His Good Purpose."

• Key Passage Poster
• "His Good Purpose" song

• “Unit 28, Session 2”
discussion starter
video

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Do you think it’s important to tell people about Jesus? What about helping them with their problems? Think about that as you watch this video. Show the “Unit 28, Session 2” discussion starter video. Talk about why the kids were still sad even after Nell told them about Jesus’ love. Ask what Nell could have done differently.

LEADER • Telling people about Jesus is incredibly important, and it is a great way to show love. Sadly, if we only tell people about Jesus and never help them with the problems they face, it can look like we don’t really care about them. Jesus wants us to talk about the gospel. He also wants us to care for people and meet their needs when we can. We don’t have to choose one or the other; we can do both!

• “The Story” song

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • Let’s praise God. Sing together “The Story.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • God, thank You for sending Jesus to die for us and for sending the Holy Spirit to help us obey You. Give us open hearts and open minds so that we can learn more about You today. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

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.

Apply the STORY

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

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- stopwatch (optional)

Read the key passage aloud with the kids, encouraging them to read the words slowly and carefully. After each full read encourage the kids to read the verse again faster. Continue reading the verse faster and faster each time. Consider using a stopwatch to time the kids and see how fast they can read the verse.

SAY • This verse was written by Paul, one of the apostles that God chose to lead the church and teach people about Jesus. Paul wrote this passage as part of his letter to the believers in Philippi, the Philippians. He wanted to remind them that their new life as Christians was possible because of the power of God working through them.

When we believe that Jesus died for our sins and came back to life on the third day, we are saved and the Holy Spirit lives with us. He helps us obey God and do the things God wants us to do, like share the gospel and show love to others.

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- Bible times clothes (optional)

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Form small groups of three or four kids. Distribute a

Bible to each group and help them find the Book of Acts. Remind them that it is in the New Testament, and it is the first book after the Gospels. It is a book of History, written by Luke. Help them find Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31. If your kids can read, encourage them to read the passage in their small groups. Then ask each group to act out the story for the rest of the kids. You may want to provide Bible times clothes.

SAY • The man whom Peter healed was unable to walk. In those days, a person who could not walk was often looked down upon. He was unable to work, and was asking for people to give him money to help him survive. Peter did not have money to give him, but he chose to show the power of God and gave the man something much better than money. **In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk.** The man got up and began running, jumping, and praising God!

Suggested review questions:

1. Who was with Peter as he went to the temple? (*John, Acts 3:1*)
2. How long had the man been unable to walk? (*since birth, Acts 3:2*)
3. How did others react when they saw the man jumping and praising God? (*They were astonished and filled with awe, Acts 3:10*)
4. What did the Jewish religious leaders tell Peter and John? (*They commanded Peter and John to stop preaching the name of Jesus, Acts 4:18*)
5. Did Peter and John agree to be silent about Jesus? (*No, they said they could not remain silent no matter what the leaders commanded them; Acts 4:19-20*)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

A circular badge with a dark background and a white border. Inside the circle, the words "LOW PREP" are written in white, uppercase letters.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Walk, jump, praise

Form three groups of kids. Assign each group one action, walking, jumping or praising God. Instruct the kids to stand with their groups on one side of the room. You stand on the other side of the room and point to groups. When you point to a group, that group must perform the action assigned to it, whether walking, jumping or praising God, until you stop pointing at them. Groups you are not pointing at must freeze in place.

SAY • In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk. As you can imagine, the man was so happy, he began to walk, jump, and praise God. The man was joyful because of what God had done for him. Jesus' name is powerful, and the Holy Spirit gave Peter the ability to heal people miraculously as Jesus had done. Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose again on the third day to defeat death. When we believe in Him, we get new life from God. When we understand what an amazing gift that is, we will want to jump for joy and praise God too.

OPTION 2: Get-well-soon cards

Work with your church leaders to make a list of members who are struggling with illnesses. Provide paper, markers, and craft supplies to your class and help them make cards for infirmed members of your church. Spend time in prayer with your kids to ask God to comfort and heal those who are sick and hurting.

SAY • In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk. We may not always see God provide the healing that people often want, but we know that

- paper
- markers
- craft supplies

there is hope even in sickness and pain. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again providing the way for us to be with God forever. There is still sickness, pain, and death in the world, but one day Jesus will return and undo all those sad things. There will be no more sickness, pain, or death when Jesus comes back.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.