



LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

Acts 3:1-16

2 Thess. 1:11-12

Session Theme:

Power

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: “Rise and Walk!”

Divide kids into pairs (or groups of three). Invite one person in each pair to sit on the floor and pretend to be lame. The “lame” student will lift up his or her hands, and the other student (or students) will gently pull him or her to a standing position. Tell kids not to yank on anyone’s arm (they don’t want to dislocate a shoulder accidentally). How easy or difficult is it to get to a standing position when you’re on the ground?

It’s not simple to go from sitting on the ground to standing. But imagine if you had been sitting that way all your life! In that case, being pulled up and then standing might be a miracle. Let’s begin our lesson and hear about one man who experienced that very thing!

c. Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you are the source of all power and goodness. You give strength to the weary and power to the faint. Help those who are weak and feeling hopeless. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- “There Is a Balm in Gilead” (hymn)
- “Silver and Gold Have I None” (children’s song)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

- Today’s Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Power

After Jesus ascended into heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to empower the apostles’ mission and ministry. When the disciples began to tell others about Jesus, many came to believe. This was God’s doing; the power of the Holy Spirit was at work in God’s Word!

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level.

Upper Elementary: Read the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read the Scripture text from the Bible

For Upper and Lower Elementary, use the Storyteller questions to help students think about details of the story.

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Upper Elementary: Worksheet and Drama

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, Questions)

Adult: Bible Study Sheet (Introduction and Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day’s lesson one last time. If you have not already done so, introduce the Theme Word for the week, providing the definition, and asking how the lesson connects to that theme.

Youth/Adult: Discuss “Reflection for the Week Ahead”

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Upper Elementary: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord’s Prayer, Luther’s Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format



Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: Acts 3:1-16

1. Why were Peter and John going up to the temple that day? Do you get the impression that this was something they did often?

They were going to the temple because it was the hour of prayer (the ninth hour of the day, about 3 p.m.). Acts 2:26 says that the disciples worshiped “day by day, attending the temple together ...” — indicating this would have been their regular practice. Acts 3:2 suggests that they knew this man was there “daily” at the gate.

2. In a literal sense, what does it mean to be “lame”? What did the lame man do while he was sitting at the gate? Do you think this was this an easy way to live? Why or why not?

People today often use the word “lame” as slang to refer to something that is uncool. The Bible uses the word in the literal sense. When the Bible says a person is lame, it means that their legs do not work properly, so they are unable to walk.

In this story, the lame man was asking for alms (gifts of money or food) from those who were passing by on their way to the temple. Begging from others is not an easy way to have to live. There were likely many people who ignored him or looked down on him.

3. How did Peter and John respond when the lame man begged them for alms? Why would their action have been surprising to the man?

Peter told the man that they had no silver or gold. Then, he commanded him to stand up and walk, in Jesus’ name! It was surprising because they actually paid attention to the lame man, instead of just handing him money or food — or looking the other way. Having been lame from birth, this man probably never thought he would be able to stand or walk.

4. What does the Bible say happened to the man? How did the man react? What do you think you would have done?

Peter took the man by the hand and pulled him to his feet. Amazingly, the man’s legs became strong for the first time, and he could stand. Overjoyed, the man leaped up and praised God. Evidently, he caused quite a commotion, getting everyone’s attention.

5. When the crowd gathered around in amazement, what did Peter say to them? Who did he say was responsible for this miracle? Why is that important?

Peter explained that it wasn’t he or John who had made the man walk, it was God who did it. Peter said that it was faith in the name of Jesus and by Jesus’ power that the lame man was healed.

Peter and John didn’t want people to think that they had any special power, nor did they want people to put their trust in them as human beings. They wanted people to trust and believe in Jesus, the real hero of the story.

6. What was the last thing that most of the people in the crowd would have known about Jesus (vv. 13-15)? In what way(s) did those same people bear responsibility for this?

To say that Jesus was responsible for the lame man’s healing would have seemed strange to the audience. As far as many of them knew, Jesus had been killed on a cross. Some of the people in this crowd may have even been a part of the mob that yelled for Jesus’ death! (Notice in Matthew 27:22-25 how the people admitted their responsibility for Jesus’ death.) Yet here Peter was saying that not only was Jesus alive again but that Jesus is the Author of Life who gives life to others!

7. Reread verse 16. What does it mean to have faith “in the name of Jesus”? What does it mean that we have faith “through Jesus”? Is there a different shade of meaning in these two phrases?

Like when a work of art is signed with the artist’s name, to say that this miracle was “in the name of Jesus” means that Jesus was the one who brought it into being. Jesus is the one who gets all the credit for the miracle. Likewise, to say that the healing took place “through Jesus” means that Jesus himself was the power or authority by which it happened. The two phrases are similar, but one emphasizes the credit due for the action, whereas the other emphasizes the power and means by which the act occurred.

8. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12. In what ways would you say the name of Jesus is glorified in you? By whose power does this happen in your life?

Faith, in the most basic sense, is trusting in God and looking to him for help. Praising God and giving him credit for the good we experience is how we show we are not the source but simply the recipient of his gifts.

By giving Jesus all the credit for our salvation, we are not only being honest and truthful, we are pointing others to the source of life and healing!

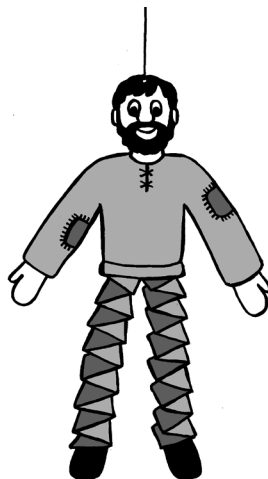
Classroom Craft and Activity Page

Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: Jump-Up Puppets

Materials Needed:

- Wooden craft sticks
- Tape
- Card stock
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Fishing Line
- Pencils



Instructions:

Give each person a piece of card stock, a pencil, some markers, and a pair of scissors. Invite everyone to do the following:

Use the pencil and draw the upper body for a puppet: head, neck, arms, and abdomen. Go over the pencil outline with markers, coloring in different parts of the puppet. Then, cut this out.

Next, give each person a half piece of construction paper. This can be any color, as it will be used to make the legs.

Using scissors, have kids cut out two long strips of construction paper as each individual leg. These should be longer than they think legs should be.

Show kids how to fold the legs, accordion-style, back and forth, from one short end to the other. If they want, they could also cut a shoe shape out of construction paper and tape a shoe to the bottom of each leg.

When kids have finished making the legs, have them tape these to the back of the puppet's body, near the waist area.

Next, cut a long piece of fishing line for each person. Have them tape one end of this to the top back of the puppet's head. Tie and tape the other end to a wooden craft stick.

When kids lift the craft stick, this will lift the puppet from sitting (with legs in front of him) to standing, just like the lame man in today's story!

How did the lame man in today's story stand and walk? It was a miracle, a show of God's power!

Activity 2: Three-Legged Race

Materials Needed:

- Strips of cloth, bandannas, or short pieces of rope
- Orange cones or chairs
- Large area to play a game
- Timer

Instructions:

If possible, play this game outside where there is plenty of space. A large, empty room would also work. This is going to be a basic three-legged race with the addition of an obstacle course!

Set up orange cones or other items, making a zigzag, slalom-type course. Kids will need to weave in and out around the cones as they race.

Divide the class into pairs. Form a group of three if needed so that every student can participate. If they so choose, each pair (or group) can put their arms over each other's shoulders to stay balanced.

Using the cloth or rope, tie each pair's inner ankles together to make their two legs into one large leg.



Set a timer for a 5 minutes, or whatever time seems appropriate to you. Challenge kids to do the course, one pair at a time, with the goal of beating the timer.

If you want to make things more competitive and you have the space, you could set up two identical slalom courses and challenge pairs to race against each other.

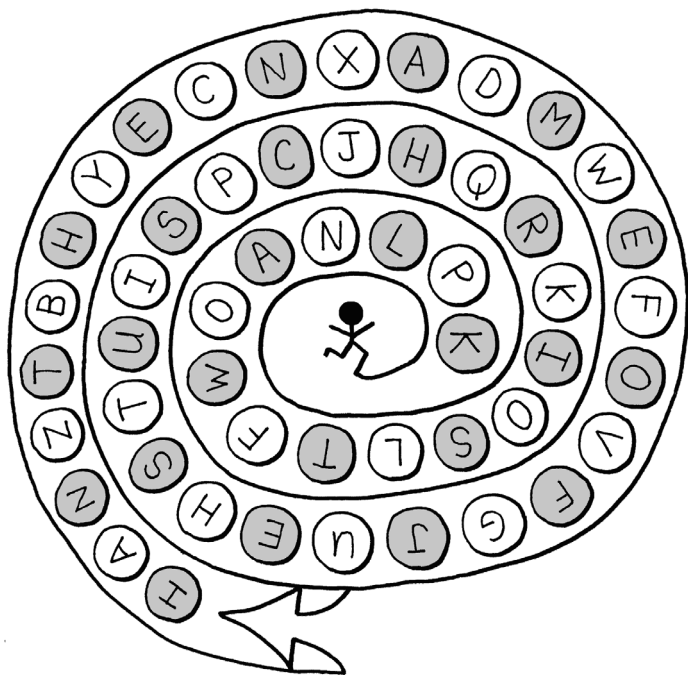
When the lame man first stood, he leaned on Peter and John. It probably took a while for him to learn to walk properly after years of sitting in one basic position! Yet as Peter said, it was not him but God who healed the man and gave his legs strength in Jesus' name. Amazing things can happen not from our power, but from God's.



Worksheet Answer Key

Shown below are the answers and solution to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

Here are the highlighted letters in the spiral:



Peter told the lame man:

"In the name of Jesus Christ, walk!"
(Acts 3:6)

What did the lame man hope to receive? **Money**

What did he actually get? **Healing from God**

"The faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all."
(Acts 3:16)

Map Answer Key

b) Which sea is closer to the city of Jerusalem?

- ☐ The Sea of Galilee ☒ The Dead Sea

c) In which corner of Jerusalem is the Great Temple located?

- ☐ Northwest ☒ Northeast
☐ Southwest ☐ Southeast

Vocabulary Word for the Week

Teachers may want to introduce the theme word for the week to help expand students' biblical vocabulary.

Power

an amazing ability to do something

Peter and John could not heal the lame man on their own. It was only possible through the healing power of Jesus Christ.

Reflection for the Week Ahead

Sometimes we see people who are suffering, and we think we have nothing to offer them.

After all, most of us aren't doctors. Most of us aren't rich, either. How can we help those who can't walk, or who suffer from other terrible illnesses and problems?

In today's story, Peter and John might have felt the same way. After seeing the lame man, Peter came right out and told him he had no silver or gold to give. But what he did have, and what he did share, was his faith in Jesus Christ and in Christ's healing power. And for the lame man, that made all the difference.



Talk to one another about these questions:

What do you think when you hear the phrase "the power of prayer?"

Are there other kinds of healing besides physical healing? What are they?

Have you ever prayed to God and later noticed that your prayer was answered in an unexpected way? When?

The Practice of Prayer

Write a prayer asking the Lord to reveal to you his Holy Spirit and to give you the peace that the Spirit brings to God's people.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.