



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 7



A Lame Man is Healed

Acts 3:1-10

Supplemental Scripture

John 14:12
Matthew 25:31-46
Philippians 2:1-11

Memory Verse

None of you should look out just for your own good. You should also look out for the good of others.
Philippians 2:4 (NirV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that we should acknowledge those who are in need.

Understand that we should help those who are in need.

Understand that the people around us are important to God.

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

What do you do when you see someone begging for money? Do you do anything when you see someone in need by the side of the road? What would you do if someone were at your church door asking for help? Let's see what Peter and John did.

One day, after the day of Pentecost, Peter and John went to the temple (church). It was three o'clock in the afternoon and it was the time to pray. There were many other people who went to church, as well. There was even a man being carried by some of his friends. The man was lame; he couldn't walk. He had been born this way. Since the man couldn't walk, he couldn't work. His friends brought him to the temple (church) every day so that he could beg for money from those who were coming to the temple (church). He sat by the Beautiful Gate outside of the temple.

The beggar saw Peter and John about to go into the temple and asked for some money. Peter and John didn't turn their heads away and they didn't walk by the beggar. Instead, they looked straight at him. "Look at us," Peter said.

The beggar expected to get money from Peter and John. He had no idea what was about to happen! All the beggar could see was his need for money, and that was important, but Peter and John had something else in mind. "I don't have any money-no silver, no gold," Peter said. "What I do have I'll give you, though. In Jesus' name, get up and walk!"

Do you think it is odd that the lame man asked for money, but Peter and John told him to get up and walk? Isn't that cruel, telling someone who can't walk, to walk? If you are making fun of them it is cruel, but Peter nor John were making fun of the lame man. Peter and John wanted to heal the lame man; then he could work and make money for himself.

Peter held the lame man's right hand and helped him stand up!

Application

So, how are you doing? Have you begun to run the race or are you still sitting on the sidelines?

Do you remember that it is a gift to be able to join the race and run for Christ? He died for us to provide the way to be right with God. Jesus is our example. We should live as Jesus lived.

If you are already running the race, are you like Peter and John, or do you get busy with your own things to the point where you don't notice the people around you? Will you commit today to think of other people as more important than yourself? When you are running the race, you are already promised eternity with God in heaven. Don't you want that for the cashier at your neighborhood store and the waiter at your favorite restaurant? Invite them to join you on this wonderful race.

Immediately the lame man's feet and ankles were strengthened and he could walk! In fact, he jumped to his feet and began walking with Peter and John. As they entered the temple to pray, the man couldn't help himself. He walked and jumped and praised God for the amazing thing that had happened to him.

All the people in the temple saw the man walking and jumping and praising God. They realized that he was the same man who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate. "They were filled with wonder. They were amazed at what had happened to him." (Acts 3:10 NIV)

Peter and John went to the temple to pray. This was their habit and there were certain times a day set aside for prayer - 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. Were Peter and John so focused on their prayers to God that they missed the people around them? No! Peter and John saw the lame man. Peter and John stopped to talk to the lame man. Peter and John helped the lame man, and others were amazed.

How about you? Do you see the people around you? Do you acknowledge them, speak to them, or help them? What do you think Jesus would want you to do as you run the race with Him?

Review

1. What were Peter and John doing when they noticed the lame man? (They were on their way to pray at church.)
2. What did they do when they saw the lame man? (They stopped and talked to him.)
3. What did the lame man expect from them? (money)
4. What did Peter and John give the lame man? (They healed him.)
5. How did the lame man respond? (He went walking and jumping and praising God.)

Next Week
Peter's Second Sermon
Acts 3:11-26

Preschool Lesson

One day, after the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came, Peter and John went to the temple (church). It was three o'clock in the afternoon and it was the time to pray. There were many other people who went to church, as well. There was even a man being carried by some of his friends. The man was lame. That means he couldn't walk. He was born this way. Since the man couldn't walk, he couldn't work. His friends brought him to the temple (church) everyday so that he could beg for money from the people who were coming to the temple (church). He sat by the Beautiful Gate outside of the temple.

The beggar saw Peter and John about to go into the temple and asked for some money. Peter and John didn't turn their heads away and they didn't walk by the beggar. Instead, they looked straight at him. "Look at us," Peter said.

The beggar expected to get money from Peter and John. He had no idea what was about to happen! "I don't have any money-no silver, no gold," Peter said. "What I do have I'll give you, though. In Jesus' name, get up and walk!"

Peter held the lame man's right hand and helped him stand up! Immediately the lame man's feet and ankles were strengthened and he could walk! In fact, he jumped to his feet and began walking with Peter and John. As they entered the temple to pray, the man couldn't help himself. He walked and jumped and praised God for the amazing thing that had happened to him.

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Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Play “Mother May I” or any other relay in teams. Blindfold one of the team members, encouraging the other to help his team member with verbal instructions as well as a helping hand. The first team to complete the task together, wins.

Make a cartoon book illustrating the healing of the lame man. These can be hand drawn, one frame at a time. When bound, flip through the book, watching the action come alive.

Make a list of all that you have to praise God for.

On construction paper, trace your students’ hands. Write prayer requests inside the outline.

Make cards and visit any elderly or lonely people who live near your church. Don’t forget to notice those along the way!

Sing “Silver and Gold Have I None (Rise Up and Walk).”

Share a story of valor that reinforces the lesson. Share a personal story if you have one. If not, share someone else’s, for example, the story of the 1976 Spokane Special Olympics that is available on the internet.

Look at Matthew 25:31-46 and discuss. Talk about ways to put these verses into practice today.

Play the song “Heartbeat of Heaven” by Stephen Curtis Chapman. Discuss the implications of this song for our life in light of Peter and John’s encounter with the lame man.

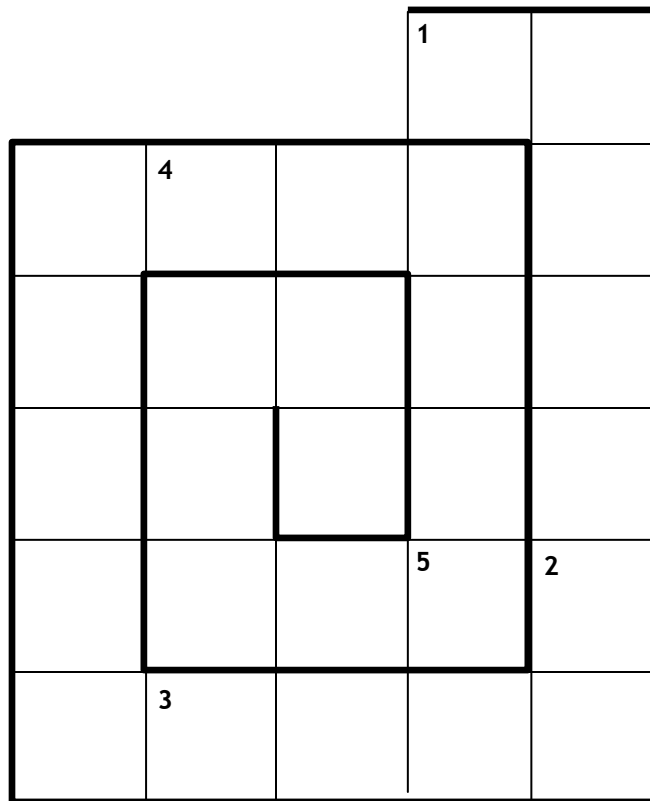
Start a reading club. Read together, Charles Sheldon’s *In His Steps (What Would Jesus Do)*.



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for your own good.
You should also
look out for the good
of others.
Philippians 2:4

Racing Riddles

Answer the questions below. Beginning with the answer to number one, fill in the maze until you have reached the center.



1. Andrew's brother, John's friend
2. What you call someone who can't walk
3. What Peter and John didn't have
4. What Peter told the lame man: "_____ and walk."
5. The lame man went walking and _____ and praising God.

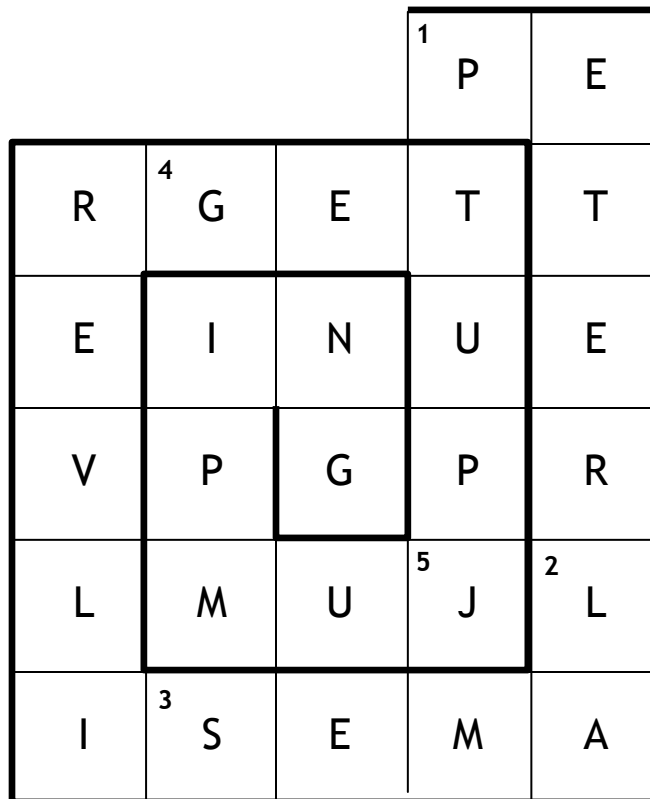


Word Box

silver get up Peter
 jumping lame

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Word Search

l p m e t u s r i p s y b l
r h a d e f i t u a e b e a
e k l a w d n a p u t e g t
v p a n e v h e e f l a g g
e t m r e e o h o p s u n d
i t o i r j j h m p e t e g
s i l e e e t e r l r i p r
o e y r v u t a i e y f i t
n o g o l d l e r u e u r s
w o p e i e r t p a e l i i
e k g e s a i m l r p g h r
n o r o o c e t t a r a g t
n b i b n h s t u d m t r e
g e t s u r t r a g g e b p

beggar

lame

temple

Beautiful Gate

Peter

John

no silver

no gold

get up and walk

Word Search

l p m e t u s r i p s y b l
r h a d e f i t u a e b e a
e k l a w d n a p u t e g t
v p a n e v h e e f l a g g
e t m r e e o h o p s u n d
i t o i r j j h m p e t e g
s i l e e e t e r l r i p r
o e y r v u t a i e y f i t
n o g o l d l e r u e u r s
w o p e i e r t p a e l i i
e k g e s a i m l r p g h r
n o r o o c e t t a r a g t
n b i b n h s t u d m t r e
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