

**STORY**

Peter Heals the Lame Man - Acts 3-4

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Lord, grant me the spirit and power of Peter to boldly proclaim your name and your salvation to all men and especially to my students this day. May the beauty, love, gift, and power of Your salvation fill the hearts of my students for You. In Jesus' name we pray.

**VOCABULARY**

*Beautiful Gate* - main gate on the east side of the temple. Each side had a main gate besides other smaller gates. All gates were usually guarded to prevent trouble. A gift from one Nicanor who built this gate.

*Hour of prayer* - ninth hour (3 p.m.) One of the times when sacrifices were offered at the temple. Often called evening sacrifice. Since they no longer sacrificed, because Christ's death was their sacrifice, they entered for prayer.

**OUTER AIM**

God gave Peter the gift of healing and the boldness to preach and to spread the message of the Word of God.

**INNER AIM**

Since we have been healed from the disease of sin, we should desire to spread the message of salvation.

**STUDENT PRAYER**

Lord, help us for we are sinners, lame of faith and poor in grace! Strengthen our faith so we look only to Your grace and salvation for the hope of eternal life. Make us bold as Peter was to speak of Your name to all people we meet. Only in You is there salvation and hope for eternity. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**PRESENTATION**

Through the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name and power of Jesus Christ, Peter and John heal a 40-year-old man. This attracted much attention in the temple, as everyone knew he was lame, and now they were amazed to see him walking and jumping around giving God, Peter, and John praise and thanks for his healing.

Peter used the opportunity to preach Law and Gospel, Christ and Him crucified for their sins. He also reminded them that they were responsible for Jesus's crucifixion. Unless they repented, God would be severely angry with them and punish them with hell in eternity. So Peter urged them strongly: "Repent and be converted that your sins may be blotted out." About 5,000 men, women and children came to faith at that time. God does work in mysterious, wondrous ways-way beyond our understanding, comprehension, talents and abilities.

But such popularity made others very jealous as were the Jewish authorities and Jewish upper echelon. They feared for their own worldly respect, honor and authority. People would flock to the disciples and not to them. They were angry and afraid, so in the evening they had the disciples arrested.

The next day they released the disciples, however, for fear of the people who looked to the disciples for spiritual guidance and blessing. Yet before the disciples were released the authorities tried to

instill in them the Sanhedrian version of the “fear of God,” but to no avail. It only gave opportunity for the disciples to preach and accuse them of crucifying Christ, which offended God and brought condemnation from God upon them. Yet Peter preached the Gospel to them for their benefit also telling them in Acts 4:12: “Nor is there salvation in any other (Christ) for there is no other name (again, Christ) under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” What a bold, beautiful statement. Too bad it had little or no spiritually uplifting effect on its hearers. Instead, the disciples were commanded to no longer speak or teach in the name of Christ.

This the disciples did not heed, but they comforted one another with Words from Psalm 2 and prayed together. The building they were in shook. The disciples and all believers continued preaching, teaching, and doing miracles by God’s help. God caused many to “give money” to and for the “church” and apostolic work. Let God be praised for His mysterious, wondrous ways. Amen!

### **ACTIVITY (Level 2)**

(Some answers should include: telling others that they are sinful, Jesus’s love, Jesus’s forgiveness. Other answers might be, Jesus rose from the dead, God created all things, we are going to heaven. There can be an unlimited number of answers.)

### **APPLICATION**

How ready are we to endure shame, persecution and jealousy for displaying our faith without using rancor, bitterness or revenge? We should learn to suffer many things and still endure while confessing the truth of Christ and His Word. To be able to do that, we must study God’s Word as Christ and the apostles did. Note what keen memory the disciples had. They quoted Scripture exactly without any text before them. We should know all of God’s Word. May the Holy Spirit so bless us as He did the disciples in witnessing.

The Holy Spirit was also active in every act and word spoken by the apostles and believers in this story. We too, often underestimate and forget His involvement in our faith and its works.

### **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

Ps. 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Matt 10:32-33 - Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Acts 4:12 - Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

James 1:15 - Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Acts 4:19-20 - But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

## **HYMN CHOICES**

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty - TLH #39

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word - TLH #261

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God - TLH #262

O Little Flock, Fear Not The Foe - TLH #263

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage - TLH #283

Chief Of Sinners Though I Be - TLH #342

Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing - TLH #360

What God Ordains Is Always Good - TLH #521