

Acts 3:1-10

June 15, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

God works through His people to give opportunity to share about Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What have we learned so far in our study of Acts?

What activities have we seen God's people do so far in the book of Acts?

What have we seen God do so far in the book of Acts?

Last week, we saw what life in the early church was like: rich and blessed. The people were devoted and faithful and "Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47b). We have seen miraculous things so far in the book of Acts, and today we'll read about another miraculous event: the healing of a lame man.



UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 3:1-2.

What are we told about the man introduced in these verses?

Based on what we know already from Acts, why would Peter and John be going to the Jewish temple?

Why might the temple gate be an ideal spot to beg?

These two verses set up the account we will study today. First, we see Peter and John going to the temple to pray. As the church became more established over time, and the good news spread not just to Jews but also to Gentiles, the church would eventually drift away from practicing Jewish rituals. Jesus made something new when He established His church, but here we see Peter and John still participating in an activity greatly integrated into their culture and upbringing: prayer at certain times of day. This also gave opportunity to engage others with the message of the gospel.

The third character we're introduced to in our passage is a lame man. Luke recorded that the man was lame from birth and was carried to the temple gate every day to beg for alms. Alms giving was a vital part of the Jewish faith, so the "gate called Beautiful" (v.2) was an opportune place to receive the alms the man needed to live.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 3:3-7.

How did Peter and John's response differ from the man's expectations?

What are some ways we might be content to receive less than Jesus's best for us in daily life?

Why is it significant that this act was done in Jesus's name?

The lame man, as was his practice, asked Peter and John for alms. Peter had no money to offer, but he had something more valuable: healing. The temple gate was a crowded and busy place, so for Peter and John to focus on this one man directly was a small miracle in and of itself (v. 4); the Holy Spirit was at work!

They healed the lame man in the name of Jesus. Jesus is the name "above every name" for a reason (Philippians 2:9). The disciples didn't seek to heal, preach, and lead from their own authority or for their own greatness. Everything they did pointed to Jesus and the mighty power in His name.



After they offered the lame man healing in Jesus's name, they helped him up. Luke, a physician, noted that "at once his feet and ankles became strong" (Acts 3:7b). Truly this was a miracle.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 3:8-10.

How did the lame man react to being healed? How did bystanders react to this miracle?

How did this give greater opportunity to share the gospel?

The newly healed lame man reacted with joy. He responded with jumping, walking, and directing his praise to the One responsible: the Lord.

We are not unlike this man. Before we knew Jesus, we were stuck as slaves to sin (John 8:34), living in darkness (Colossians 1:13) and unable to enjoy the good life God desires for us. Like in the lame man's story, something miraculous happens when Jesus enters our lives. Our lives are transformed, and true life and freedom begin.

Those crowded around recognized the miracle for what it was and were amazed by what God had done. This set the scene for Peter to share the good news again.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What can we learn from the lame man's response about how to respond when God works powerfully in our lives?

What can we learn from Peter's response to the lame man at the temple? How does this inform what needy people around us need most of all?

Who might you share this story with as a way of telling them about Jesus?

Throughout Acts, God opened doors and the apostles seized opportunities to glorify God and share the good news. The temple gate was crowded, and they could have easily brushed this man off, pretending they didn't hear him, but they didn't. They were moved to help in a way that glorified God and opened more doors to share the good news. God can still miraculously heal His people today, but God works powerfully in many other ways in the lives of those around us. And sometimes, He gives us opportunity to be a part of the amazing work He has planned. Are we paying attention? Are we looking for open doors and stepping through them when given the chance?



PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Thank God for working powerfully in the lives of His people, both today and in the accounts we read in Scripture. Ask Him for help walking through the doors He opens for us to glorify Him. Ask for His help as you continue in Acts, that you may grow closer to Him and learn more about His character daily.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

June 22, 2025 --- Acts 3:11-26

COMMENTARY

Acts 3:1-10

3:1 Peter and John continued to participate in Jewish rituals and worship, and early Christians regularly gathered in the temple (2:46). This is fitting, for Christianity began as a form of contemporary Judaism that accepted Jesus as Messiah. The beginning stages of the church's separation from Judaism are recounted in Acts as Christian leaders such as Peter and Paul continued boldly to proclaim Jesus as Messiah. The full and final split of Christianity from Judaism came by the time of the first Jewish revolt against Rome (AD 66–70).

3:2 This is the first healing miracle in Acts. The man was lame from birth and was daily carried to the temple gate called Beautiful so he could beg for money. In the era before governmental aid for needy persons, it was the kindness of strangers and loved ones that kept men such as this alive.

3:3–6 It is good for the lame man that Peter and John did not have either silver or gold to hand out, for what they did have to offer was of far greater value—healing power through Jesus Christ. Rather than a temporary fix, the man was given a permanent remedy for his physical and spiritual problems.

3:7 The book of Acts recounts several healing miracles (e.g., 9:32–34, 36–42). During the Hellenistic period, knowledge of science and medicine was advanced enough that the bystanders recognized without a doubt that Peter had enacted a miracle. The mention of the strengthening of the lame man's feet and ankles may provide indirect support for the traditional view that the author, Luke, was a physician.

3:8–11 The sight attracted a great deal of attention. The response was awe and astonishment.

