

# Peter and John Heal the Lame Man

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

**Main point:** Jesus' name has power. Peter gave the man what he had, Jesus' name, and the man who had been lame all his life went walking, and leaping, and praising God.

**Bible passage:** Acts 3:1–16 and Acts 4:1–22. Read them before class.

**Memory verse:** "Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." *Acts 3:6 (KJV)*

**You need:** a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.

**Before class:** write the memory verse on the board.

## 1. Opening game: Gifts Without Money (5–10 minutes)

Split into teams of three or four. Give each team paper and a pencil. Say: "You have two minutes. List every gift you can give someone that costs no money at all." When time is up, teams read their lists (help, a kind word, sharing, listening, a prayer, telling about Jesus). The team with the longest list wins. Say: "Today we'll meet a man who had no money to give, but he gave the best gift of all."

## 2. Bible story: Such As I Have (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Acts 3. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

**The hour of prayer. Look up Acts 3:1.** Jesus had gone back to heaven, and the church had begun (Acts 1–2). Peter and John went up to the temple, God's house in Jerusalem, at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. That was about three o'clock in the afternoon.

**The man at the gate. Look up Acts 3:2.** A man **lame from his mother's womb** (his feet had not worked since the day he was born) was carried and laid every day at the gate of the temple called Beautiful. He asked for **alms**, money or gifts for the poor, from the people going in. Later we learn he was more than forty years old (Acts 4:22). He had never walked in all those years.

**"Look on us." Look up Acts 3:3–5.** When he asked Peter and John for alms, Peter, **fastening his eyes upon him** (looking straight at him), with John, said, "Look on us." The man **gave heed** (paid attention), expecting to get something from them.

**Such as I have. Look up Acts 3:6.** Peter had no silver or gold. But he gave what he had: "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."



**Walking, and leaping, and praising God. Look up Acts 3:7–8.** Peter took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and **immediately** (right away) his feet and ankle bones received strength. He leaped up, stood, walked, and went into the temple with them, "walking, and leaping, and praising God."

**Everyone was amazed. Look up Acts 3:9–11.** All the people saw him walking and praising God. They knew he was the man who sat for alms at the Beautiful gate, and they were filled with wonder and amazement. They ran together to Solomon's **porch**, a long covered walkway at the temple, where the man was holding on to Peter and John.

**Not our own power. Look up Acts 3:12 and 3:16.** Peter asked the people why they looked at him and John as though they had made the man walk by their own power or holiness. It was Jesus' name, through faith in His name, that made this man strong. Peter preached about Jesus, whom God raised from the dead (3:15), and told the people to repent (3:19).

**The next day.** The temple leaders were upset that Peter and John were preaching about Jesus rising from the dead. They put them in **hold** (jail) overnight (4:1–3). But many who heard believed, about five thousand men (4:4)! The next day the rulers asked, "By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?" (4:7). **Look up Acts 4:10 and 4:12.** Peter said it was by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that the man stood there whole, and there is no other name by which we must be saved. The leaders told them not to speak in Jesus' name anymore, but Peter and John said they could not stop speaking what they had seen and heard (4:18–20). The leaders let them go, and all the people glorified God (4:21).

### 3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

**Thinking questions** (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The man asked for money, but Peter gave him something better (3:6). What was it? Why was it better than money?
2. Peter said they did not heal the man by their own power (3:12). Why did Peter want the people to know that?
3. What do you have that you could give to someone this week, even if it isn't money?
4. The man went into the temple praising God (3:8). What has God done for you that you can praise Him for?
5. Peter and John said they could not stop speaking about Jesus, even when the leaders told them to stop (4:18–20). When is it hard for you to talk about Jesus?

**Recall questions**

1. What was the gate called? (*Beautiful, Acts 3:2*)
2. How old was the man who was healed? (*Above forty years old, 4:22*)
3. What part of the man received strength? (*His feet and ankle bones, 3:7*)



## 4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **silver and gold** means money, **such as I have** means what I do have, **give I thee** means I give to you, and **Nazareth** is the town where Jesus grew up. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

## 5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Peter told the rulers, 'Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved' (Acts 4:12, KJV). God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? Peter preached it, in Jesus' name: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

*Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.*

**This week:** give one gift that costs no money: help, a kind word, a prayer, or telling someone about Jesus. And each day, tell God one thing you praise Him for.



## 6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Acts 3:1: What time did Peter and John go to the temple? (*At the hour of prayer, the ninth hour*)
2. Acts 3:2: What was the gate of the temple called? (*Beautiful*)
3. Acts 3:4: What did Peter say to the man? (*"Look on us"*)
4. Acts 3:7: Which hand did Peter take? (*His right hand*)
5. Acts 3:11: What was the porch called? (*Solomon's*)
6. Acts 4:4: About how many men believed? (*About five thousand*)
7. Acts 4:13: What did the leaders see in Peter and John? (*Boldness, and that they had been with Jesus*)
8. Acts 4:22: How old was the man who was healed? (*Above forty years old*)

Or choose the **Peter and John word search** ([vbshq.com/puzzles/peter-and-john-heal-word-search](http://vbshq.com/puzzles/peter-and-john-heal-word-search)), crossword ([vbshq.com/puzzles/peter-and-john-heal-crossword](http://vbshq.com/puzzles/peter-and-john-heal-crossword)), maze ([vbshq.com/puzzles/peter-and-john-heal-maze](http://vbshq.com/puzzles/peter-and-john-heal-maze)) or worksheet ([vbshq.com/worksheets/peter-and-john-heal-worksheet](http://vbshq.com/worksheets/peter-and-john-heal-worksheet)).

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus' name has power. Help us give what we have to help others, and give us boldness to tell people about Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Speak kindly about the man: lame** is the Bible's word for someone whose feet could not walk. If a child in your class, or someone in their family, can't walk or uses a wheelchair, keep the focus on Jesus' power and God's love for every person. Never let the word be used to tease anyone.

**If a child asks why someone they pray for is not healed yet:** answer gently. God still heals today, and we pray for the sick in Jesus' name (James 5:14–15). God always hears us, and He answers in His way and His time. Keep praying and keep trusting Him.

