

# Peter and John Heal the Lame Man

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

**Main point:** There is power in the name of Jesus, and in no other name. Give what God has given you, and give Him the glory.

**Bible passage:** Acts 3:1–4:22. Students read Acts 3:1–16 and Acts 4:7–14 out loud themselves.

**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)* and "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)*

**You need:** a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.

**Before class:** read Acts 3:1–4:22. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

## 1. Opening game: More Than Money (5–10 minutes)

Write six things on the board: a new phone, \$100, a best friend, good health, a family that loves you, knowing Jesus. Each student ranks them from most to least valuable on paper. Compare lists. Ask: *Which of these can money buy? Which can't? What is the most valuable thing you could ever give someone? Say:* "Peter had none of the money. Let's see what he gave instead."

## 2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

**Read out loud:** Acts 3:1–16. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour** (3:1): the afternoon prayer time, about three o'clock
- **lame from his mother's womb** (3:2): his feet had not worked since he was born; **alms**: money or gifts for the poor
- **fastening his eyes upon him** (3:4): looking straight at him; **gave heed** (3:5): paid attention
- **such as I have give I thee** (3:6): what I do have, I give you
- **received strength** (3:7): were made strong; **filled with wonder and amazement** (3:10): astonished
- **the porch that is called Solomon's** (3:11): a long covered walkway at the temple
- **marvel** (3:12): be amazed; **the Prince of life** (3:15): Jesus, the One who gives life
- **perfect soundness** (3:16): complete health, nothing missing



**Tell the middle part in your own words:** Peter preached to the crowd that God had raised Jesus from the dead (3:15), and told them, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (3:19). The priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees were upset that they taught the people and preached the resurrection through Jesus. They put Peter and John in jail overnight (4:1–3). But many who heard the word believed, and the number of the men was about five thousand (4:4). The next day the rulers, elders and scribes gathered with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas, set Peter and John in the middle, and asked, "By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?" (4:5–7).

**Read out loud: Acts 4:7–14.** Old words in this passage:

- **filled with the Holy Ghost** (4:8): Peter spoke by the power of God's Spirit
- **the impotent man** (4:9): the man who had no strength in his feet; **made whole**: healed completely
- **set at nought** (4:11): treated as worth nothing; **the head of the corner**: the most important stone of a building
- **boldness** (4:13): courage to speak plainly; **unlearned and ignorant men**: plain men without much schooling
- **they could say nothing against it** (4:14): the healed man was standing right there

**Talk it through:** the leaders commanded them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus, but Peter and John answered, "we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (4:18–20). The leaders let them go, because all the people glorified God for what was done. The man was above forty years old (4:21–22).

### 3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. The man expected money (3:5). Peter gave him something he didn't even know to ask for (3:6). What does that show you about how God gives?
2. Peter said it wasn't "our own power or holiness" (3:12) but Jesus' name, through faith in His name (3:16). Why does it matter who gets the credit when God does something good through us?
3. The leaders asked, "By what power, or by what name?" (4:7). Peter answered, "none other name under heaven" (4:12). Why is the name of Jesus so central in Acts (2:38; 3:6; 4:12)?
4. The leaders saw that Peter and John "had been with Jesus" (4:13). What would make people say that about you?
5. Peter and John said they could not stop speaking about what they had seen and heard (4:20). What has God done in your life that you could tell someone about?
6. "Such as I have give I thee" (3:6). What has God given you (time, a skill, a kind heart, your story) that you can give to someone this week?

## 4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words: in Acts 3:6, **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. In Acts 4:12, **salvation** means being saved from sin, and **whereby** means by which.

Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Acts 3:6 this week; keep working on Acts 4:12 next week too.

## 5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "In Acts, the apostles healed in the name of Jesus (3:6), preached that His is the only name that saves (4:12), and told people to be baptized in His name (2:38). God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). In Acts 3:19 Peter said, 'Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.' We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."

*Pray with the students, 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.*



## 6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. "Such as I have": what do I have that I could give someone this week?
2. What has God done for me that I can praise Him for, like the man did?
3. Write a short prayer asking God for boldness like Peter and John, to speak about Jesus.  
If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

**This week:** give one gift that costs no money, and tell one person something God has done for you.

## 7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that there is power in the name of Jesus, and that there is no other name by which we must be saved. Help us give what You have given us, give You all the glory, and speak boldly about Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Speak kindly about the man: lame and impotent** are the Bible's words for someone whose feet had no strength. If a student, 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.

**If a student asks why someone they pray for is not healed yet:** answer gently and honestly. God still heals today, and we pray for the sick in Jesus' name (James 5:14–15). God always hears, and He answers in His way and His time. Encourage them to keep praying and to talk with their parents and pastor.

