Preschool–Grade 6

Peter and John Heal the Lame Man

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus' name has power. Peter had no money, but he gave what he had, and the man who had never walked went walking and praising God.
Bible passage: Acts 3:1–16. Read it 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, 6 index cards, a marker, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 cards (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 3.

1. Opening game: Walk and Stop (5 minutes)

Everyone stands. Call out moves, and kids do them in place: "Walk!" "Tiptoe!" "Take giant steps!" "Sit down!" "Stand up!" "Walk again!" "Stop!" Last, call "Praise God!" and everyone lifts their hands and says, "Praise God!" Play two or three rounds, faster each time. Then ask: *Do you think about your feet when you walk? What would it be like if you had never walked, not even one step?* Say: "Today we will meet a man who had never walked in his whole life, until the day Peter and John came by."

2. Bible story: Rise Up and Walk (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 3, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Jesus had gone back to heaven, and His helpers were telling everyone about Him. One afternoon, two of them, **Peter** and **John**, went up to the temple to pray (Acts 3:1). The temple was God's house in Jerusalem, where people came to pray and worship. It was the hour of prayer, the ninth hour, about three o'clock in the afternoon.

The temple had a gate called **Beautiful**. Every day, people carried a man to that gate and laid him there (3:2). The man was **lame**. That means his feet and legs could not walk. He had been lame "from his mother's womb," which means from the day he was born. He had never walked, not one step. He sat at the gate to ask for **alms**, money or gifts to help someone who is poor, from the people going into the temple (3:2).

When the man saw Peter and John about to go in, he asked them for alms too (3:3). Peter looked straight at him, with John, and said, "Look on us" (3:4). So the man looked at them. He thought they were going to give him something (3:5).

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The story continues: 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" (3:6). Say: "Peter had no money to give. But he had something much better: the power of Jesus' name."

Peter took the man by his right hand and lifted him up. Right away, his feet and ankle bones became strong (3:7)! The man jumped up, stood, and walked! He went into the temple with Peter and John, "walking, and leaping, and praising God" (3:8). **Leaping** means jumping. He had never walked before, and now he was walking, jumping and thanking God!

All the people saw him walking and praising God. They knew he was the same man who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful gate, and they were filled with wonder (3:9–10). The man held on to Peter and John, and all the people ran together to see (3:11).

Peter told the people that he and John had not made the man walk by their own power (3:12). It was the name of Jesus, and faith in His name, that made this man strong (3:16). Ask the kids: *Who really made the man walk?* (Jesus did!)

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where were Peter and John going? *(To the temple, to pray, Acts 3:1)*
2. What was the name of the gate? *(Beautiful, 3:2)*
3. What did the man ask Peter and John for? *(Alms, money to help the poor, 3:3)*
4. What did Peter say he did not have? *(Silver and gold, 3:6)*
5. What did the man do when his feet were made strong? *(He went into the temple walking, and leaping, and praising God, 3:8)*

4. Memory verse: Rise Up and Walk (5 minutes)

Write the verse on 6 cards: *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.* 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. Kids sit on the floor. Read the verse together, and on "rise up and walk," everyone stands up and walks in place. Then take one card away, sit down, and say it again. Keep taking cards away until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Peter said, 'In the name of Jesus Christ,' and the man was made strong. Jesus' name has power! The Bible says there is 'none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved' (Acts 4:12, KJV). God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! Peter told people how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus, and it has Jesus' name in it too: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
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: Peter gave what he had. Give what you have: help someone, share, say something kind, pray for someone, or tell a friend about Jesus. And when God does something good for you, praise Him like the man did.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Peter and John word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/peter-and-john-heal-word-search), crossword (vbshq.com/puzzles/peter-and-john-heal-crossword), maze (vbshq.com/puzzles/peter-and-john-heal-maze) or worksheet (vbshq.com/worksheets/peter-and-john-heal-worksheet), the coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/peter-and-john-heal), or **Through the Beautiful Gate:** two children hold hands up high to make a gate. Everyone else lines up. Ask the first child in line a question from part 3. When they answer, they walk through the gate saying, "Praise God!" and go to the back of the line. Switch who makes the gate every few turns.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus' name has power. Help us give what we have to help others, and help us praise You for all You do. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

Speak kindly about the man: lame is the Bible's word for someone whose feet could not walk. God loved this man. 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.

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