

Bible Stories for Adults

Peter and John Heal a Lame Man

Acts 3

Opening

Gathering: Give examples of unexpected opportunities to be God's witness.

Today's Focus: Peter responded to an unexpected opportunity to witness and over 1000 became Christian.

Key Verses: *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. And the Lord added to their number daily. Acts 2:42, 47*

Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him has given this complete healing. Acts 3:16

Opening Prayer

Lesson

A New Beginning (Acts 1)

What seemed to the disciples as a final ending but was really a new beginning?

John 16:5-7, 20-22

How did Jesus use the symbolic number 40 to point out that this was a new beginning?

Acts 1:3

What was this new beginning?

Luke 24:45-51

Did this new beginning start the moment Jesus ascended?

Acts 1:4-5

How were they able to recognize when this new beginning started?

Acts 2:1-4

A Powerful Jump-Start (Acts 2)

What was the purpose of this new beginning?

Matthew 28:19-20

How many people were first charged with this commission?

Acts 1:15

How could such a small group handle the task of making disciples of all nations?

Acts 1:8

How was this group given a great jump-start towards this objective?

Acts 2:5-11

How effective was this jump-start to a new beginning?

Acts 2:41

How faithful did these new Christians remain since they lived away from the central church?

Romans 1:7-8, 11-12, 15

The Power to Grow (Acts 2:43)

Was the sending of the Holy Spirit only for the initial jump-start on Pentecost?

John 14:16-17, 26

What about the special power that was shown on Pentecost? Was it only for that day?

Mark 16:17-20

Were such miraculous signs really given to the church to help it grow?

Acts 2:43

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Modus Operandi (Acts 2:42-47)

- Did the early Christians spend their time running around showing off their great new powers?
Acts 2:42
- How committed were they to this new beginning?
Acts 2:44-45
- Did they do these things in hiding so they wouldn't be caught by the authorities?
Acts 2:46-47

Jew to Gentile (Acts 3:1)

- Did the early Christians observe Jewish customs in the temple or did they just go there to teach?
Acts 3:1
- What times of prayer did the Jews observe?
Daniel 6:10
- Was this progression from Jew to Gentile part of God's plan?
Romans 1:16
- Why were the Jews first?
John 4:22
- What did Jesus mean that salvation is from the Jews?
Genesis 12:1-3
- Does this mean that Jews are more important in Christ's family?
Galatians 3:28-29

At the Temple (Acts 3:2-5)

- What common encounter did Peter and John have at the temple?
Acts 3:2-3
- Beautiful Gate - Believed to be the Nicanor gate (named after its Alexandrian donor)
Main and largest gate; Made of expensive Corinthian bronze, looked like gold
Between Court of the Women and Court of Men; at top of 15 steps; took 20 men to close
- Why couldn't women, maimed or unclean pass through the gate?
Leviticus 21:16-18
- Those who could not work (blind, lame, etc.) sat on the steps begging from worshippers
Giving alms was an important and respectable part of the Jewish faith
- Did Peter and John try to ignore and/or avoid this beggar?
Acts 3:4
- Did this work or did the beggar ignore them afraid that they might reprimand or curse him?
Acts 3:5

The Gift (Acts 3:6-7)

- Had Peter and John brought money from the church that they would give this man?
Acts 3:6
- Was this just a cheap way out, or was it a real gift?
Acts 3:7
- How could just the name of Jesus have that much power?
Matthew 28:18
Philippians 2:9-11

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A New Beginning (Acts 3:8-10)

- What did the beggar think of these cheapskates who only gave a name?
Acts 3:8
- Did the people think this was just an act?
Acts 3:9-10
- How was the point of the man's new beginning made even stronger?
Acts 4:22

Opportunity Knocks (Acts 3:11-12)

- Did the beggar run home and tell everyone he knew what had happened?
Acts 3:11
- Solomon's Colonnade - Porch along east of temple's Court of the Gentiles
Believed to contain ruins from Solomon's temple
- Had Peter planned to heal this man or to talk to a crowd when he came to pray?
Acts 3:12
- How easily would the people accept Peter's disclaimer after he had healed this lame man?
Acts 4:13
- What did Peter later write that applied to his situation?
1 Peter 3:15

Jesus Who? (Acts 3:13-16)

- How did Peter begin his introduction to this crowd of who was responsible for this miracle?
Acts 3:13a
- How did he remind the crowd who this Jesus was?
Acts 3:13b-14
- So was this miracle done to give Peter a chance to tell the Jews they had done wrong?
Acts 3:15
- But how did Peter heal this man and what does God's servant Jesus have to do with it?
Acts 3:16
- What might the Jews have remembered by Peter's talk?
Genesis 50:19-20

What Should We Do? (Acts 3:17-21)

- How did Peter address the remorse of the Jews who now realized they had killed God's servant?
Acts 3:17-18
- Since they didn't know what they were doing and it was God's plan, were they innocent?
Leviticus 5:17
- What should they do now that they had committed the horrible sin of killing God's Messiah?
Acts 3:19-20
- But the Christ had come and been killed. Why did Peter say "that He may send the Christ?"
Acts 3:21

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Past Promises (Acts 3:22-26)

How were they to know that Jesus was a part of God's plan?

Acts 3:22-24

Did the promises start with Moses?

Acts 3:25

How was Jesus mentioned in that original covenant?

Genesis 22:18

But wasn't the Messiah sent for the Jews? What does it mean that He came for all nations?

Acts 3:26

The Result (Acts 4:1-4)

How did Peter finish his speech?

Acts 4:1

Why did they stop Peter?

Acts 4:2

What did they do to get Peter to be quiet?

Acts 4:3

Had Peter's speech had any effect?

Acts 4:4

So what should we remember from Peter's experience?

Colossians 4:5-6

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How do I respond when I see people with needs?
(Acts 3:1-4; 10:31; Psalm 37:21; Proverbs 14:31; 18:23; 22:22-23; 28:27; Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 14:7; Luke 11:5-13; 19:8; John 9:1-7; 1 Corinthians 13:3)
2. Am I more inclined to give money to a cause or to get personally involved?
(Acts 3:4-7; Judges 5:2; 1 Cor 16:15-16; 2 Cor 8:1-15; Philippians 4:10-20; Revelation 2:19)
3. When have I taken credit for something that was clearly the work of God?
(Acts 3:11-16; Romans 3:27-4:3; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 3:18-23; 4:7; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18; Galatians 6:14; James 4:13-17)
4. How have I given glory to God when He has accomplished His work through me?
(Acts 3:11-16; 4:18-21; 21:17-20a; Matthew 5:14-16; 9:6-8; 15:29-31; John 15:8; Luke 7:15-17; 13:13; 17:15-16; 23:47; Romans 4:18-21; 15:14-19; 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10)
5. When have I recognized and taken an opportunity to witness to Jesus in a common encounter?
(Acts 3:1-26; 4:18-20; 8:26-38; 17:16-23; 26:2, 27-29; Luke 24:15-27; Col 4:5-6; 1 Peter 3:15)