

# A WALKING WONDER

Peter and John  
Heal a Man  
Who Can't Walk  
Acts 3:1–16; 4:5–22  
AD 34

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

The Holy Spirit empowers God's people to show mercy.

### BIBLE VERSE

Give thanks to the LORD! Psalm 106:1

### LEARNER GOAL

I know Jesus loves me and helps me show love for others.

### LAW & GOSPEL

I show symptoms of living in a fallen world full of disability and illness. **Through His Son, God gives me forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation—the cure for all sin.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

A man who had never been able to walk lies by the Beautiful Gate and begs Peter and John for alms. Having no gold or silver to give him, they offer him something better—complete healing. Leaping for joy, the man praises God for His miraculous healing, and Peter uses the opportunity to teach about the true Savior. The Jewish Council asks Peter and John by whose power they performed this miracle, so they witness concerning the power of the risen Christ. Being warned against speaking further concerning Jesus, Peter and John assert they must continue to speak the Gospel.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read the Bible text and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read the leader devotion found in the online digital resource center.

**IN-DEPTH** Read the article “The Acts of Whom?” on page 1841 of *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Metal, wooden, plastic, Styrofoam & paper containers; loud & soft items to drop into the containers (e.g., buttons, sticks, rocks, nuts, sponges, cotton balls, leaves, feathers, paper clips)
- ☐ Dolls & a toy medical kit or toy vehicles & blocks
- ☐ Jell-O cups with pretzel sticks
- ☐ Small potato chip cans with lids or other containers with lids, dried beans or rice or stones, paper & decorating supplies

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- ☐ Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities
- ☐ [cph.org/digitalcontent](http://cph.org/digitalcontent)



#### LEADER NOTE

Greet each child and show the children where to put their offerings. Direct them to an activity that will connect what they know to what they will learn. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.



#### LEADER NOTE

Sing one or more of the suggested songs. Ask your coordinator for access to download music from the online digital resource center.



#### BONUS ACTIVITY

Use “Jump for Joy.”

# LAUNCH

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

**AUDITORY DISCRIMINATION** Set out metal, wooden, plastic, Styrofoam, and paper containers (cans, boxes, jars, egg cartons) and items to drop into them (buttons, sticks, rocks, sponges, cotton balls, leaves, feathers, paper clips). Listen. Say, **We listen for different sounds. God listens for our praise and thanks. What do you praise and thank God for?**

**DRAMATIC PLAY** Set out dolls and a toy medical kit or a toy vehicles (e.g., cars, a fire truck, an ambulance) and blocks. Encourage the children to care for the dolls as patients or to make roads and buildings and pretend they are taking hurt people to the hospital. Say, **Today we will hear about a man who couldn’t walk and how Jesus’ friends helped him.**

## JESUS TIME

**SING** “Good Morning, Dear Jesus” (digital resource center) or  
“We Pray for Each Other” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 15)

**SAY** Hi, boys and girls! I’m glad to see all of you here today. I wonder, have you ever been hurt? Who helped you? Today we’ll talk about a man who needed help and what happened to him.

**PRAY** Dear God,\* thank You\* for our bodies.\* Thank You\* for taking care of us\* and helping us\* when we are hurt or sick.\* Thank You,\* most of all,\* for Jesus,\* who heals us from the sickness of our sin.\* Amen.\*

# LEARN

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Have the children stand and do various actions using their legs (e.g., jump, stand on one leg, stand on the other leg, hop on one foot, twirl around in a circle, walk in place), then sit down. Say, **You can do so many things with your legs! They are a good gift from God. But sometimes people’s legs do not work right. Do you know someone who can’t walk?** Accept answers (e.g., children might have a grandparent or great grandparent who is in a wheelchair or might know someone whose leg is broken).

Hold up your Bible. Ask, **What is this?** (Bible) **Who’s Word is this?** (God’s Word) **We know that what God says in the Bible really happened. Today I’m going to tell you a true story about a man who couldn’t walk and how Jesus’ friends helped to make him better. Listen for what Jesus’ friends say and what the man does.**

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide.

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Ask, **What did the man do after Peter and John healed his legs? Yes, the Bible says he went to the temple-church, “walking and leaping and praising God” (Acts 3:8).**

**Our Bible words today are from Psalm 106:1 in the Bible: “Give thanks to the LORD!” How do you show that you are happy or excited?** Wait for responses (e.g., clap hands, shout “hooray,” give high fives, jump, hug). **These are all ways that we can show thanks and praise. I’m going to say our Bible words again. When you hear the words, I want you to say them after me and clap.** Say the verse and have the children say it and clap. **Let’s say our Bible words again, and jump for joy this time.** Do so. Repeat, asking the children to suggest an action.

# LIVE

## DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with each child, or put the page into a purchased binder. Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

**SIDE 1** Have the children color the mat and crutch and look for hidden hearts. Review the story.

**SIDE 2** Say, **Jesus helped Peter and John heal the man who couldn't walk. Jesus heals us too. Look at the pictures of children. Add stickers to show how Jesus cares for you.** Have the children add stickers of a doctor, parent, and cross to the pictures. Talk about how Jesus helps and heals us through others. Best of all, He heals us of our sin sickness. Point to right side of page. Say, **Jesus heals you from sin and helps you show love for others. Put a happy-face sticker next to each child who is showing God's love for others. Doing this is a way to praise and thank God for His love. What are other ways you can do that?**

## ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active-learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

### □ MOVE

Help the children get the wiggles out by singing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes."

### □ SNACK

Serve Jell-O cups with stick pretzels.

### □ CREATE

Make praise shakers.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Do the children understand that Jesus loves and cares for them and works through them to show love for others? Ask, **How does knowing Jesus loves and cares for you make you feel? What are ways you can tell Him thank You?**

# LEAVE

**SING** "Father, Hear My Prayer" (digital resource center) or  
"God Is So Good" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 57) or  
"Two Little Eyes" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 36)

**SAY** **Jesus' helpers Peter and John showed mercy for the man who couldn't walk. They healed him in Jesus' name. What did the man do? He went to church to praise and thank God. Jesus forgives our sins. He gives us people to care for us, and He wants us to care for others and show them love and mercy too.**

**PRAY** **Dear Jesus, You are so wonderful! You forgive our sins. You care for us and give us people to show love for us. We praise You! Help us show mercy and love for others, especially for those who are sick or hurt or lonely. Amen.**



### CHRIST CONNECTION

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we receive His mercy and are healed from our sin-sickness, even though we don't deserve it.



### LEADER NOTE

Check with parents ahead of time, and provide options for children with allergies. Most cookies, pretzels, and the like can also be purchased in allergy-free forms. Or provide an alternate snack, like fruit.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Use "Learning about Mercy."



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Children will enjoy making a "Praise Puppet."

## ACTIVE LEARNING

### □ MOVE

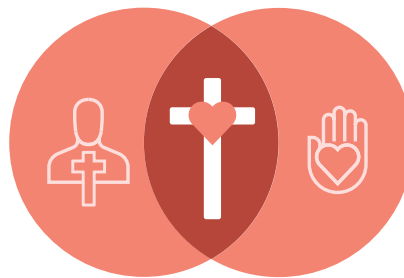
Lead the children in singing “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes,” touching parts of the body as indicated. Sing, **Head, shoulders, knees, and toes, knees and toes. Head, shoulders, knees, and toes, knees and toes. God shows mercy; this I know** (*Point to head.*) **Head, shoulders, knees, and toes, knees and toes.** Say, **This is a great way to praise Jesus and thank Him for all the parts of our body. The man in our story praised Jesus by leaping and jumping as he went to church. We can use all the parts of our body to serve Jesus by showing love for others.**

### □ SNACK

Give the children Jell-O cups with stick pretzel crosses. Say, **Sometimes when we are sick or injured or in the hospital, we may get Jell-O to eat. Who does Jesus give us to help us get better?** (Doctors, parents, etc.) **We can thank Jesus for these helpers. Say, The crosses remind us of the best reason to praise God, though. He sent Jesus to die on the cross to take away our sins!**

### □ CREATE

Give the children small, clean potato-chip cans with lids or margarine tubs with lids, or the like. Fill with dried beans, rice, or small stones. Tape shut. Cut strips of paper to go around the containers. Have the children decorate these strips with markers, purchased stickers, and so forth. Tape strips around container. Put the Bible verse sticker on the top. Ask, **What are things you praise God for?** Play praise music and have the children shake their praise shakers as they sing along.



## CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God heals my greatest illness, sin and death, through Christ's death and resurrection.

### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can trust God's promises to heal me and make me whole.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

*See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.*

### ADULT

I can express how God empowered Peter and John to show mercy and how He continues to empower the Church to do the same today.

### YOUTH

I can demonstrate acts of mercy through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### ELEMENTARY

I understand that the Holy Spirit helps me to show mercy to others.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know Jesus loves me and helps me show love for others.

## ★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

### JUMP FOR JOY

5 minutes

Review the story, then lead the children in this action poem. Substitute other actions for “jump,” such as clasp, skip, twirl.

**Jump, jump, jump for joy!** (*Jump.*)  
**Jesus loves each girl and boy.** (*Point.*)

**Jesus came from heaven to die.** (*Point up.*)

**Jump, jump, jump all day.** (*Jump.*)  
**So once more we shall all say:** (*Cup hands around mouth.*)

**Jump, jump, jump for joy!** (*Jump.*)  
**Jesus loves each girl and boy.** (*Point.*)

### LEARNING ABOUT MERCY

10 minutes

Tell children who are wearing green to move to the table by using only one leg (they can hop, drag leg, etc.). Encourage other children to help their friends. Say, **When we help others, we are showing kindness. That's called mercy. When we see people who are different** (e.g., in a wheelchair, with special needs, or with an injury), **how should we act toward them? Yes, we should help and show love for them. Who shows us mercy?** (Parents, doctors, etc.). **Jesus show us the greatest mercy. He heals us from sin!**

### PRAISE PUPPET

15 minutes

Make a praise puppet. Attach child sticker (Sticker Page) to index card. Trim. Accordion-fold paper strips for legs. Attach puppet to a pencil and act out ways to praise Jesus (e.g., we can jump for joy; we can sing praises to Jesus, we can be kind to someone who is sad by being a friend; we can show love for someone who is hurt by getting help or giving a Band-Aid; we can be a friend to someone who doesn't look or act like us). For each item named, have the children make their puppet jump in joy and say the Bible Verse.