

# 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 understand that the Holy Spirit helps me to show mercy to 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 Acts 3:1–16; 4:5–22; and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

**MORE TIME** Read Acts 3:17–26 and study notes in *TLSB*.

**IN DEPTH** Read the article “The Acts of Whom?” in *TLSB*, page 1841.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

☐ Paper for drawing

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Device with downloaded music
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities
- ☐ [cph.org/digitalcontent](http://cph.org/digitalcontent)



### GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 2.



### LEADER NOTE

Because of the healed man's reaction of "walking and leaping and praising God," it's only natural to have your students take a moment to do the same after the reading of this narrative.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Check the back page for the "Scrap Paper Collage" activity to extend the learning.

# LAUNCH

**PRAY** Dear Lord Jesus, You give us all that we need. You forgive our sins and fill us with Your love. Help us to share this Good News with one another and everyone we meet. In Your name we pray. Amen.

**SING** "Oh, How I Love Jesus"  
"Jesus, I Believe in You"  
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

**SAY** What's something that you wish you could do but you can't? (Listen and respond to your students' thoughts on this. Some may be big things, others small; some eventually attainable, some never attainable.) Now imagine that because you couldn't do that one thing, you also couldn't work and earn money to live. Pretty sad, right? Now imagine that someone came along and said a word and you could do that thing that you had wanted your whole life to do. Your life would be changed in an instant! How would you feel? What would you do? Show me.

# LEARN

## READ "A WALKING WONDER"

Use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* to read the Bible narrative aloud to your students.

## DO SOMETHING

**FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS** Notice that the first sentence of each paragraph of the narrative in the student book is in bold. After you read the boldface sentence, stop and ask students to predict what will happen next. Then finish the paragraph, checking to see if the students' predictions were correct. Continue this way

throughout the reading of the narrative.

**FOR MIXED AGE LEARNERS** Referring to the same boldface sentences and pausing as noted earlier, have students close their eyes and visualize what's happening as you read each paragraph. After each paragraph, ask students to describe what they see in their "mind's eye."

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Peter and John were good friends and were an important part of growing the Early Church.
- Some versions of this narrative, including the ESV, use *lame* to describe the man who could not walk. Modern culture has given this word another use in a derogatory sense, as in, "He gave a really lame excuse." Talk about how the word *lame* is used here; make sure your learners know that it refers to the man's inability to walk.
- Once again, we see this miracle not as an end in itself but as an opportunity to point to Jesus.
- The group of leaders that put Peter and John into jail are the same group that put Jesus on trial not very long before this. They could have done the same to Peter and John. Instead of denying Jesus, this time Peter proclaims the truth of Jesus. After Pentecost, Peter became a bold preacher for Jesus. The Holy Spirit used his sermons to bring thousands of people to faith.
- Before God, we are all in the same position as the man begging at the gate. None of us can save ourselves from our sins. We are all recipients of God's mercy, His undeserved love.

# LIVE

## EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about this lesson, found on the second page of Lesson 2.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in the *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ **Peter and John could heal the man only because of the name and power of Jesus. They had mercy on the man who could not walk. The Holy Spirit helps us to show mercy to people today. How do people show mercy today?** (The ability to talk in depth about this will vary depending on the maturity of your students. For younger students, talk more simply; for older students, you can talk about acts of mercy for those in need.)
- ▶ **Have you ever gotten in trouble for doing a good thing? How does that feel? Peter and John were thrown into prison for a night because they healed this man and witnessed about Jesus.**
- ▶ **Some people are uncomfortable talking about Jesus, but Jesus commanded us to tell everyone about how much He loves them and wants to save them. How can we tell everyone about Jesus in our daily lives, even if it might be uncomfortable?**
- ▶ **Jesus worked through Peter and John to heal this man and to share the Good News of salvation. What does it mean when people say that they see Jesus in us?** (Again, this might be too abstract for younger students, but try to talk about how we can serve our neighbor and be the hands and feet of Jesus in our world.)

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

Give thanks to the LORD! Psalm 106:1

## KEY DISCUSSION POINT

- How do we respond to Jesus' amazing gifts? We give thanks!

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ask students to draw a picture of today's narrative; or, for older students, ask them to draw a picture to show what the word *mercy* means.

# LEAVE

**SAY** The Holy Spirit helps us to care for others and to tell people about Jesus. We don't have to do it all on our own. We can give thanks for that!

**SING** The Doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
"The Lord's Prayer"  
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

**PRAY** Dear Jesus, thank You for all the many blessings of love and forgiveness You shower upon us every day! Help us to share this Good News with everyone we meet. Help us to praise You wherever we may be. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.



### DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



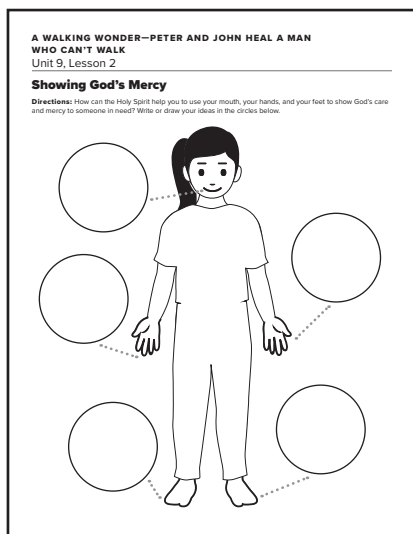
### CHRIST CONNECTION

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

## DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.

Guide students to think of caring comments they can say to share Jesus' love with a person in need. Ideas for the hands include making a caring Christ-centered card, helping with housework or yardwork, or helping to prepare a meal. Ideas for the feet include running errands, helping with chores, or actually going to visit the person.



### 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

### SCRAP PAPER COLLAGE

10–15 minutes

From scraps of construction paper, have students cut shapes to make a collage to depict a scene in this narrative. Help them use circles for faces, rectangles for bodies, and so forth. Help them cut, glue, and draw what they need to depict their scene. Have students share paper and ideas, encouraging them to talk about what they are making.

### MERCY RESEARCH

Times may vary

Many hospitals include the word *mercy* in their name, as do other groups that have as their mission showing compassion or alleviating suffering. Together with students, do some online research, looking for all the places you can find with the word *mercy* in their name; then talk about what those entities do with regard to caring for others.

### WALKING AND LEAPING SONG

5 minutes

You may remember learning a song when you were young about this narrative, with lyrics that included the phrase “walking and leaping and praising God.” Do an online search of that phrase to find a video or recording of this old favorite to share with your group. Then definitely add the walking and leaping as you sing!