

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

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*.

MORE TIME Read “Apologetics Helps” on the back page in preparation for the “Live” section.

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

SUPPLIES

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Digital device
- ☐ Mittens, blindfolds, earmuffs, masking tape—enough to have one item for each pair of learners
- ☐ Dictionary

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Student copies of *Defend Journal*
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Shareable images from digital resource center
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities
- ☐ cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

Option: Ask youth to share stories of people in need and how others helped them.



DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 2.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Does your group need to move around a bit? Try “Showing Mercy.”

LAUNCH

WALK-IN QUESTION

What does it mean to be merciful?

PEOPLE IN NEED

Bring in a digital device and search for “pictures of people in need.” Show the pictures to your group and ask them to make a list of who they see (people who are homeless, hungry, elderly, poor, etc.).

SAY Because of sin, many people are suffering and in need of mercy. Today, we’ll hear how Peter and John showed God’s mercy to a man who couldn’t walk.

PRAY Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit to fill us with love for others. Help us show mercy as You have shown mercy to us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

LEARN

READ “THE BIG PICTURE” AND TALK IT OUT

► Imagine you are the man who was healed after forty years of not being able to walk. How do you feel? What are you thinking?

DISCUSSION POINTS

● Let the youth share their thoughts. Share your thoughts as well!

LEARN ABOUT “A WALKING WONDER”

As you read and discuss the four Bible sections below, encourage the youth to make bullet-point notes in their journals describing what is happening in each section.

Read **Acts 3:1–10** or ask volunteers to read as others follow along in their Bibles.

- A man who had been unable to walk since birth stopped Peter and John and asked them for some money as they went into the temple to pray.
- Peter told the man he had no money to give. Instead, he said, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” The man got up and began to walk and leap!

Ask a volunteer to read **Acts 3:11–16**.

- The people in the temple were amazed.
- Peter explained that the man had been healed by the power of Jesus.

Ask a volunteer to read **Acts 4:5–12**.

- The rulers, elders, and scribes questioned Peter and John. Peter proclaimed that Jesus is the Christ and that there is salvation in no one else.

Ask a volunteer to read **Acts 4:13–22**.

- The rulers and scribes commanded Peter and John to stop talking about Jesus, but they refused.
- **What were the effects of Peter proclaiming Jesus’ name in these sections?**
- The man was healed in Jesus’ name and praised God.
- Peter gave a witness that Jesus is the Christ, sent by God, who died and rose, and that salvation is found only in Him.
- The rulers and scribes became angry with Peter and John and commanded them not to talk about Jesus, but Peter and John continued to witness about Jesus.

LIVE

DISCUSS “IN THE NAME OF JESUS”

Have the youth get into pairs. Give one person in each pair one of the following items to put on: mittens, a blindfold, earmuffs, or masking tape to go over his or her mouth. Tell the youth that these items represent disabilities some people live with. Ask the pairs to work together to write down thoughts about the question below. Encourage the “nondisabled” person to help the “disabled” person contribute to the discussion. After five minutes, have the pairs switch roles and work for another five minutes. Collect the items and discuss as a group. Use the bullet points below and “Apologetics Helps” on the back page for additional help as you discuss.

► **What will you do in the name of Jesus?**

DISCUSSION POINTS

- What was it like to be hindered in your ability to see, hear, speak, or write? What was it like to be helped by your partner? What was it like to be the one helping?
- Ask youth to think about what Jesus has done for them and how God has shown them mercy. How do God’s love, forgiveness, provision, and blessings fill our hearts with thankfulness and the desire to share His love with others?
- God has given us the gift of His Holy Spirit. The Spirit works in our heart to create faith and lead us to love and show mercy to others.
- In the name of Jesus, Peter and John took the hand of the man who could not walk, and the man was healed. How can we use our hands to help and serve those who have significant needs? Ask youth to give examples of how we can help those in need.

CONSIDER “MERCY”

Ask a student to look up the word *mercy* on a digital device or in a dictionary. What is the definition? (Compassion or forbearance, a fortunate circumstance, compassionate treatment of those in distress) Ask youth to give an example of how they could show mercy to someone. If they want, they can write their thoughts in their journal.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Check for understanding by asking youth to answer this question: **How will you show mercy in Jesus’ name?**

LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

Give thanks to the LORD! Psalm 106:1

Ask for prayer requests. Offer to pray, or invite a student to pray for everyone.



CHRIST CONNECTION
God had mercy on us sinners and sent Jesus to be our Savior.



LEADER NOTE
Walk around the pairs and encourage them to find creative ways to help their partner discuss the question.



BONUS ACTIVITY
Youth can pray for the church worldwide with “Pray for the Persecuted.”



SHAREABLE DOWNLOAD
Connect with youth before and after the lesson by using the shareable images from the digital resource center.

APOLOGETICS HELPS

DEFEND THE FAITH

Peter and John went to pray at the temple in Jerusalem. The man they healed there was lying at the Beautiful Gate, an entryway to the temple. Acts 3:11 mentions Solomon's Portico as the place where all the people ran to Peter and John after the healing. This was a long porch with columns along the east side of the temple. Jesus had also taught there.

Herod's temple replaced Zerubbabel's temple, which had been built in the sixth century BC as a replacement for Solomon's temple. That temple had been destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC. Herod began renovating the temple around 20 BC. Much of the work was done during his lifetime, but the reconstruction of the colonnades was not completed until AD 66, just a few years before the temple and all of Jerusalem were destroyed in AD 70.

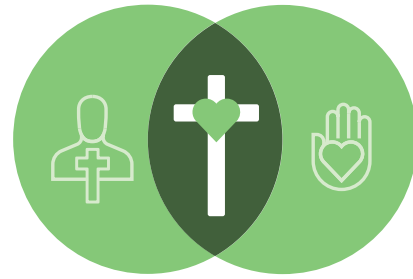
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

► Why was it important that Peter and John healed “in the name of Jesus”?

Peter and John had not healed on their own. It was God's power that healed the man. Peter was insistent on emphasizing this truth because, as he told the rulers and scribes, “there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). People sometimes put their faith in human leaders, but no human can give eternal salvation. Jesus is the only Savior of the world.

► What does it mean when we say things like “God is working through you”?

One of the ways God cares for His creation and His people is through human beings—through us. You may have heard this saying: “We are the hands and feet of Christ.” When we care for others' needs, we are sharing the love of Jesus with them. The Holy Spirit works in our hearts, empowering us to show love and mercy to the people around us.



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

WALKING AND LEAPING

5–10 minutes

There's a kids' song that tells this narrative well. Look online for a video or words and music to “Silver and Gold Have I None.” Sure, it's a kids' song, but encourage everyone to leap around and sing this fun song anyway. Or you can play the lyrics video and let youth watch.

SHOWING MERCY

10–15 minutes

The man in this account had needed to be carried around since birth. Have each teen take a turn lying on a blanket while the rest of the class carries him or her a short distance. Talk about showing mercy. How can we help people in need in our school, church, and community?

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED

15–20 minutes

Search “the persecuted church” online to find information about the places in the world where Christians are persecuted. Pick a few specific areas and pray for the Christians there. Pray that God would strengthen them and open doors for the Gospel to be proclaimed.