



WARM-UP

We recommend you choose 1 or 2 of the following questions.

Do you think it's okay for people to ask for money on the street? What's the best way to help them?

If you could be a superhero and have any power, who would you be and why?

Share a high point and a low point from this past week.

WORD

"One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from



WORD CONTINUED...

the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.' "Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

- Acts 3 (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

The early church tapped into the power of the Holy Spirit with urgency. Jesus told them that all authority on heaven and earth had been given to them and therefore, they were to make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19) The early church, led by the same disciples who followed Jesus closely during His time on Earth, would do just that. They knew God, they walked with Him as a man on Earth. They grew together in times of difficulty and joy. They soon discovered their purpose, that this Gospel was meant to be shared. And ultimately, they made a difference, allowing all to hear and know about Jesus.



DISCUSSION

1. In Acts 1:8, the theme verse for the book of Acts, Jesus promises power to His disciples and commands them to be witnesses. How are these two elements, power and being a witness, connected in this chapter?
2. How have you ever experienced the power of God in your life? Describe what happened.
3. Verse 16 says it was faith in the name of Jesus that brought about this miracle. What does it mean to have faith in the name of Jesus? How can we grow in this kind of faith?
4. When a crowd gathered in response to this miracle, Peter took the opportunity to proclaim the Gospel. Do you think Peter already intended to proclaim the Gospel when he declared the lame man healed by the power of God? Or do you think he responded to the opportunity, or to a prompt from the Holy Spirit?
5. When we help someone like Peter did, healing the lame man by the miraculous power of God, is it enough to simply meet their immediate need or should we always attempt to meet their eternal need for salvation by also proclaiming the Gospel?

APPLICATION

1. Look for someone in need this week and offer to pray for them. If you don't know how to pray for someone with a need, like physical healing or emotional pain, ask the group how you can learn to pray for those in need.
2. Find one person who is not yet a Christian and share the Gospel with them. If you don't know how to share the Gospel with someone, ask the group how you can learn to share the Gospel this week.
3. As a group, discuss steps you can take to grow in both accessing God's power and in proclaiming the Gospel.



PRAYER

1. This week, spend time praying for God to give you the grace to have the faith to proclaim who He is and what He has done in your life with those around you. Pray that like Peter and John you as well can perform signs, wonders, and miracles in power.
2. Pray for a friend who does not know Jesus. Pray that they can know God and discover their purpose in Him.
3. Pray for someone you know that needs a miracle, ask God to perform a miracle and meet that need.