

Bible Story 4: THE CRIPPLED MAN IS HEALED

SCRIPTURE: Acts 3:1-19; 4:1-24

MEMORY VERSES: Luke 10:27; Zechariah 7:9b or Acts 4:20 (or Acts 4:18-20)

BIBLE STORY:

Around three in the afternoon, the apostles Peter and John were walking towards the temple. It was the hour to pray.

There was a forty year old man who was crippled since birth. Each day the crippled man was carried and placed at the temple gate called Beautiful. The crippled man begged for help from those who were going into the temple courts. When the crippled man saw Peter and John approaching, he begged, "Help me!"

Peter and John stopped and looked at the crippled man. Peter said, "Look at us!" Thinking these two men would give him something, the crippled man looked at them.

Peter said, "I do not have silver or gold. What I do have I will give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, walk!" Then Peter reached out with his right hand and helped the crippled man get up. Jumping to his feet, the crippled man's ankles and feet became firm and strong! The man went into the temple courts with Peter and John, walking, jumping and praising God!

Crowds gathered around and were amazed. They realized that the man who was walking, jumping and praising God, was the crippled man who begged for money in front of the Temple gate. ■

Peter said to the people, "You killed the author of life, but God raised His Son Jesus up from the dead. Why are you looking at us, thinking we healed the crippled man. Because of faith in Jesus, the man was healed. Repent, turning away from disobeying God, and turn to God so your sins will be forgiven."

When the priests and religious leaders saw what was happening and heard the apostles teaching that Jesus resurrected, they put Peter and John in jail.

The next day the religious leaders asked Peter and John, "By what power or by what name did you heal this man?"

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit of God. Peter boldly replied, "This man was healed because of Jesus Christ. You crucified Jesus Christ but God resurrected Him – God raised His Son Jesus up from the dead. Jesus is the only one who has power to save."

The religious leaders realized that they could not deny the crippled man was healed. They said to the apostles, "Do not to speak to anyone else about this name, Jesus."

Peter and John replied, "In God's eyes, which is right: to listen to you or listen to God? We cannot help but speak about what we have seen and heard."

Because all the people were praising God, the religious leaders didn't know what else to do. They again threatened Peter and John, and then released them.

Peter and John left and went to their own people, telling them everything that had happened. They all prayed together.

If the story is too long, divide the story into two or more parts. An example, stop at the symbol ■ and tell the rest of the story when your group meets again.

Jesus is the only one who has power to save people.

Saved

means to be forgiven from God's punishment of sins. How can you be saved?

- **Repent** of your sins – turn away from disobeying God and turn to God.
- **Believe** Jesus is God's Son who died on the cross for our sins but God raised Him up from the dead.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Ask questions appropriate for your group of listeners.)

PERSONAL QUESTIONS:

1. What did you learn from this story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

GENERIC QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Who are the main people in the story and what problems did they face?
3. Have you faced similar problems?
4. How does this story help someone who is facing similar problems?
5. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

1. The crippled man:
 - Why was the crippled man in front of the gate to the temple courts?
 - What happened when the crippled man begged for Peter and John to help him?
 - After the crippled man was healed, what happened?
2. People in need today:
 - Who are some people who need our help today?
 - What are some ways we can help people?
3. Problems we face:
 - Think about some problems you have faced. Has God helped you through those circumstances? How? Who are some people who have helped you?
 - Ask volunteers to share an experience they have had while facing a difficult situation.
4. Even though they were put in prison, Peter and John said that they could not help but speak about what they had seen and heard.
 - Today are Christians persecuted for believing in Jesus and sharing the good news of Jesus with others? How?
 - Have you ever been made fun of, ridiculed or persecuted for believing in Jesus? How?
5. What have you personally seen and heard about Jesus?

LIFE LESSONS: (Choose Life Lessons appropriate for your group of listeners.)

1. People should help those in need.

Peter and John stopped and helped the crippled man. They did not have any money, but they gave what they had. We need to stop and take time to help people in need.

2. Believers should thank and praise God for what He does for them.

After the crippled man was healed, he praised God. Praise God for the blessings He gives you.

3. Believers should share what they know about Jesus, even when they may be persecuted.

Peter and John shared about Jesus after the crippled man was healed. Because they shared about Jesus, they were put in jail. We need to share what we know about Jesus, even when we may be ridiculed or persecuted for our belief in Jesus.

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES:

(Choose an activity or activities appropriate for your group of listeners.)

CHANT: “Helping Others”

Option 1: Divide the group into two parts.

- Listeners read Part 1 at the appropriate time.
- Leader reads Part 2 at the appropriate time.

Option 2: Divide the group into two parts.

- One leader says the words under Part 1, pointing at his eyes, hands, feet, ears and mouth at the appropriate time. The listeners repeat his words and actions.
- Another leader says the words under Part 2 at the appropriate time.

CHANT: “Helping Others”	
PART 1: LISTENERS	PART 2: LEADER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use our eyes. ■ Use our eyes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To look for ones in need. ■ To read to those unable to read.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use our hands. ■ Use our hands. ■ Use our hands. ■ Use our hands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To hand out food to those who are hungry. ■ To hand out clothes to clothe those in need. ■ To help lift a sick person out of bed. ■ To help carry groceries for an elderly person.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use our feet. ■ Use our feet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To go and visit the homebound and someone sick. ■ To take someone to the store or doctor’s office.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use our ears. ■ Use our ears. ■ Use our ears. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To listen to those who are facing problems. ■ To listen to those who have lost a loved one. ■ To listen to other people’s stories.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use our mouth. ■ Use our mouth. ■ Use our mouth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To speak words of kindness. ■ To speak words of comfort and encouragement. ■ To speak about Jesus.
<p>Listeners may join the leader, saying: “Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me’ ” (Matthew 25:40 NIV).</p>	

PRAYER:

Pray for prayer requests in your group.