

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 27

Peter and John preach the gospel

Acts 3:1-26



DAY 1

Jesus restored physical life • Acts 3:1-10

READ

Acts 3:1-10

EXPLAIN

The truth of Acts 3:1-10

Jesus restored life through men who responded with compassion, faith, and action. First, Peter and John showed compassion by looking at the cripple intently. Often people look away from those in need so that they won't feel guilty for not helping. Second, Peter acted in faith. Peter had nothing of his own to give, but he trusted in the power of Jesus and wanted to see Jesus honored above all. Third, Peter put compassion and faith into practical action. Following Jesus' example (John 13:1-13), he willingly served this cripple by lending a hand. The result was a true miracle. First, it was immediate. Muscles which had never been used grew instantly, and the skinny, curled legs thickened and straightened. Second, it was complete. For the first time in his life, the cripple stood. Amazed at what was happening, he went on to walk and even jump with joy. Third, it was a sign that glorified God through Jesus, for the cripple praised God. Fourth, it was obvious. The people knew this man was genuinely crippled from birth, and even the disciples' enemies could not deny that it was a miracle (Acts 4:16).

ASK

1. What was wrong with the man begging at the temple?
He was lame. He couldn't walk.
2. How did Peter and John act toward the crippled man?
They paid attention to him, introduced him to Jesus, and practically served Him.
3. In whose name did Peter heal the cripple?
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.
4. Who really healed the man?
Jesus.

DISCUSS

1. What made this miracle undeniable? Is it like the so-called miracles of modern faith healers?
2. Why did Jesus give the disciples miraculous power to heal?

DAY 2

Jesus is the source of life • Acts 3:11–16

READ

Acts 3:11–16

EXPLAIN

The truth of Acts 3:11–16

Peter explained that restoring physical life was just a picture of Jesus' power to restore spiritual life. It showed that Jesus was the source of life. But could a crucified man really be the source of life? The kind of people who were crucified were sinners; how could a sinner be the source of life? Besides, how could a dead person be the source of life? The resurrection answers these questions. First, the resurrection proved that Jesus was not a sinful person. When God raised Jesus from the dead, it proved that God honored Him. Jesus died not as a criminal but as God's faithful servant (Isa 42:1). Instead of being a criminal, He was in fact **holy** (*set apart for God for a special mission*) and **righteous** (*innocent*). Second, the resurrection showed that Jesus was no longer dead. Eyewitnesses had seen Him alive (1 Cor 15:3–8), and His resurrection proved that He is in fact the "**Author**" of life (John 10:18), the source of life (John 1:4; 5:26; 14:6) and the Lord in charge of life. Now Jesus had proved His life-giving power once again by healing a life-long cripple.

ASK

1. When Peter explained what happened, what did he call Jesus?
The Author of life.
2. What two facts showed that Jesus was the source of life?
He rose from the dead, and He restored life to the crippled man's legs.
3. How could a crucified man be the source of life?
The resurrection proved that Jesus was sinless and alive.

DISCUSS

1. What matters most to you: your physical life or your spiritual life? How can you tell?
2. Does Jesus always heal physical problems? Why not (2 Cor 5:1–8)? Will He one day (Rev 21:4)?

DAY 3

Turn to Jesus for eternal life • Acts 3:17–19

READ

Acts 3:17–19

EXPLAIN

The truth of Acts 3:17–19

Imagine the shock! Many of the Jews listening now realized that they had caused the death of their very own source of life, none other than God Himself (Ps 36:9)! Was there any hope for them? Yes. First, they could have hope because they had acted in ignorance (Num 15:27–31). Since they had not understood who Jesus really was, they had not knowingly rejected the

Lord of life (Heb 6:4–6; 10:26–29). Second, they could have hope because God did something amazing. He used their ignorant sin to provide a perfect sacrifice for sin (Isa 53). Because the source of life died, it is possible for sinners to live. But this promise is only for sinners who respond. Just as the crippled man's body was made new through faith in Jesus (Acts 3:16), so a sinner's soul is made new through faith. But since **faith** is clinging to Jesus, it always comes with **repentance**, a change of heart, no longer rebelling and instead turning back to Jesus. If they would do that, their sins would be **forgiven**, completely wiped away (Isa 43:25).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Was there any hope for those that had killed their very own source of life?
Yes! Because the source of life died, it is possible for sinners to live.
2. How did God use the Jews' sin to do something good?
They caused Jesus to die, but God used that to provide the perfect sacrifice for sin.
3. What do you need to do so that Jesus' death can forgive your sins?
Believe and repent by turning to Jesus and trusting in Him.
4. How can Jesus heal you?
By forgiving my sins.

DISCUSS 

1. What is the real problem for which all humans need healing? Have you received this healing?
2. How does the word "turn" provide a picture of repentance? Have you done this?

DAY 4*Jesus will restore earthly life • Acts 3:20–26***READ** 

Acts 3:17–26

EXPLAIN **The truth of Acts 3:20–26**

Peter also urged the Jews to repent so that they could live in the new world. Since Jesus is the Lord of life, He will one day return and bring new life to earth (Matt 19:28). The prophets had eagerly looked forward to this day when the Messiah would personally reign over a world full of peace and life (Isa 9:6–7; 11:6–10; 35:1–10; Zech 14:8–21). But that day will not come until the people of Israel return as a whole to their God (Matt 23:39). Until then, everyone who repents can begin to experience God's promised blessing. From Moses on, all the prophets had talked about the time when the Messiah would come, a time of great blessing. This blessing now reaches to all nations, but it was offered first to the Jews, since they were and always will be God's covenant people (Rom 1:16). But if anyone, Jew or Gentile, refuses to pay attention to the Messiah, they will be thrown out of the blessing. So Peter finished his sermon by urging once again: repent to receive the blessing from the living Messiah.

ASK 

1. What's another reason Peter urged the Jews to repent
So that they could live in a new world.
2. When will Jesus return and restore life on earth?
When the people of Israel repent.
3. What is life like when we live by faith in Jesus?
It is a life of blessing—we are full of joy no matter what troubles come in this life.
3. How did Peter finish his sermon?
By once again urging the people to repent.

DISCUSS 

1. What are some things that are wrong with the world? Why is the world broken (Gen 3:17–19)?
2. What do you do to be happy? How can you experience joy now no matter how broken the world is?

DAY 5

When God does not heal • James 1:2–4

READ

James 1:1–4

EXPLAIN

The truth of James 1:2–4

Should we expect miraculous healing today? Not usually. Today's so-called faith healers do not heal immediately, completely, or obviously, and they do so for their own gain and glory, not for God. Also, when the apostles finished their special mission, the purpose for miracles ended. Still, even without the gift of healing, God can heal as He pleases, whether supernaturally or naturally (1 Tim 5:23). But what about when healing doesn't come? Even when God does not heal, He is still at work. Although we will face many trials in this life, God has a purpose for each one: they are meant to produce spiritual endurance. They are designed to strengthen our faith. As we patiently and tenaciously endure great hardship, our faith is built up and refined. Over time this patient endurance "perfects" and "completes" us, leading to greater spiritual maturity. It does not make us sinless (cf. Jas 3:2), but it does teach us to rejoice more and more about what matters most—God's eternal kingdom. God may not heal, but He is at work for our good and His glory!

ASK

1. Should we expect miraculous healing today?
Not usually. God can heal, but God often allows sickness in order to strengthen our faith.
2. Is it likely that we'll experience many trials in this life?
Yes. James did not say "if" you experience trials, but "when" you experience trials.
3. Is God still at work, even when He does not heal us?
Yes. The testing of our faith produces spiritual endurance.

DISCUSS

1. What are some trials you face? Are they fun? Are they good for you?
2. Do you know someone who is joyful even though they have been through many troubles? What makes them so joyful?

NEXT WEEK

Ananias and Sapphira lie to the Holy Spirit

Acts 4:32–5:11

