



1. Observe the text (verses 1-5): Luke gives quite a bit of detail setting the scene. List out everything you can observe about the setting, and have someone try to describe what it may have looked like.
2. Why do you think Peter insisted on meeting the man's eyes? How might that have been different than the lame man's usual interactions with people?
3. Peter and John were on their way to pray in the temple – it would have been very tempting for them to rush by in their busy-ness had Peter not been sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. What things tend to drown out the Spirit's leading in your life?
4. Share your favorite story about Jesus healing someone with the group. Aside from the obvious miraculous power – what impresses you most about Jesus in the story?
5. Does anything about this story in Acts 3 remind you of how Jesus treated the needy? What are some ways we can be more like Jesus this week when we encounter physically and spiritually needy people? What are some situations where we avoid engaging with needy people?
6. In verse 16, what does Peter say has made the man well? What does it mean to have faith in Jesus' name? How does faith come *through* Jesus? How does knowing Him increase your faith?
7. In verse 19, what conditions must be met to experience times of refreshing from the Lord? What do these conditions mean practically to us today?
8. In this chapter we saw the power of the name of Jesus restore a lame man's ability to walk. What else will the power of God restore (verse 21)? What does that refer to?
9. If you know Jesus, share some things that He has restored or healed in your life. How have you experienced "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord?"
10. How would our lives look different if we really believed that God could restore others the way He has restored us? In what ways do our current actions reveal that we may not fully believe that?

Leader Notes for Acts 3:1-26

Those who have been filled with the Spirit of God should start to look more and more like Jesus. In this week's "Act of the Holy Spirit" we see a man who was lame from birth healed. As wonderful and marvelous as that is, Peter makes it clear that something far more marvelous is going on here: the power of Jesus Christ is at work, and that power can do far better than straighten some bones and connect some ligaments.

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Leader Notes for Acts 3:1-26, continued

Peter and John are filled with the very life of Christ, and as such we notice the following effects:

1. They respond to the needy like Jesus did

It's hard not to see echoes of Jesus Himself in Peter's actions by the Beautiful Gate. How often Jesus allowed Himself to be "distracted" from a task he was in the middle of, to address a needy person near Him. With one touch, one word, one gesture, Jesus had a way of humanizing someone who had become an outcast, defined by their infirmity. Jesus' whole mission to this earth was to help needy people. We - all of us - had no hope of ever being whole and well. We may think ourselves much better off than that lame man, but reality disagrees. We can do little more than scrape together enough resources to get us through to tomorrow. And then He came to meet us. When Jesus encountered someone, He didn't just meet their needs for today or tomorrow, but for all time. When He made them well, He made them well forever.

If the church is going to take up the mission of Jesus, we need to see people like Jesus saw them. We can so easily look over the heads of the needy that the Holy Spirit has put in our path, because we are too focused on our busy lives or even on our busy ministry schedules. We should see people as made in the image of God, in need of rescue.

2. They lived in anticipation of the power of God

After the miracle Peter asks, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel?" (v. 12). This is an odd question after he has just done something so marvelous! Peter makes it clear that it was not his power that accomplished this but the power of the name of Jesus (v. 16). In Peter's view, this is just what the name of Jesus does. He heals, restores, blots out sin, removes iniquity, and brings times of refreshing. All these things are listed in this chapter as things that are accomplished when someone has faith in the name of Jesus.

But what does it mean to have faith in His name? In the Bible a name was not just a collection of syllables that labeled someone, but was meant to capture the whole character and being of that person. When at the burning bush Moses asked God's name, he was asking for more than just a pronunciation guide – he was asking about who God was. Who should I tell them You are? To know someone's name represents knowing that person. So, as the people at the temple gather around to marvel at the lame beggar who is leaping for joy, Peter tells them something even more marvelous: they can know the One who made this man whole. When this lame man encountered the power and presence of God in Peter and John (who were filled with the Holy Spirit), he was physically restored. The prophets said Jesus would restore all things (v. 21)! He can restore much more than just a body; He can bring times of refreshing and blot out your sins.

Peter was so convinced of this because he had seen it himself. He had seen so many encounter Jesus, and none were left unchanged. He lived in anticipation that the name of Jesus Christ would do powerful things. If the church lived in the same anticipation today, what a powerful impact we could have on the world around us!

