

LESSON 2

A LAME MAN WALKS



BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Beautiful Gate

The Beautiful Gate was one of the entrances to the temple court. This gate was also known as the Nicanor Gate, being about seventy-five feet high and sheathed in bronze. Since this was one of the favorite entrances to the temple area, many people passed through it on their way to worship. In addition, the Jews observed three times of prayer: morning (9:00 am), afternoon (3:00pm), and at sunset. It was, thus, a strategic spot for the lame man to be begging for money.

The Sanhedrin

The rulers, elders, scribes, and priests made up the Sanhedrin, or Jewish Supreme Court. It had seventy members and the high priest at that time presided over any proceedings. The Sadducees made up the majority of this ruling council. They were members of a small but powerful Jewish religious sect who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. They were wealthy and intellectual, gaining financially by cooperating with the Romans. They also controlled the temple and had unlimited power over the temple grounds. Therefore, when Peter and John preached the resurrection of Christ, they quickly seized them and put them in jail. But because Peter and John were taken in the evening, the council had to wait until the next day for a court session.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

To many unbelievers, the Bible is like a good fiction novel, filled with stories about a great God with vast powers. To them, God is similar to today's superheroes, as He has the power to help the weak and destroy evil. But it was people who created these superheroes and people who brought them to life. They are nothing more than markings on a piece of paper. However, God is real and the Creator of all. In addition to being all-powerful, He can also give people the power to do special things. This is what sets Him apart.

Relate to your students that the people in the Bible were just ordinary people like them. But because they trusted God, He gave them the power to accomplish many things. When Jesus ascended to heaven, the power of God did not leave with Him. Rather, it continued through the power of the Holy Spirit. Remind your students that they need strength from God at all times. A superhero may seemingly have the "power" to do whatever he wants, but only God has the real power to do whatever He wants. Encourage your students to pray constantly so that they can develop a personal relationship with Christ.

BIBLE TEXT

Acts 3; 4:1-31

BIBLE TRUTH

Peter and John received power from God to do great things.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To trust that God can help us accomplish more than we can on our own.
2. To learn how to trust in God when we do not have the ability or strength to do something.

MEMORY VERSE

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

(Philippians 4:13)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us walk on this heavenly journey to Your kingdom. We know that without Your aid, we cannot do anything. But when we trust in You, You can help us do great things. Please fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can do Your will. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

lame: crippled; unable to walk
resurrect: to revive, raise
threat: an indication to hurt someone; intimidation

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the apostles receiving the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. When the apostles were praying near the temple in a house, there was suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind and then tongues of fire came to rest upon them. The Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised had come, and they began to speak in tongues. After being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter went and preached to the crowd that had gathered after seeing and hearing the miracles. When they heard Peter's powerful words, they felt ashamed and they repented. They realized that Jesus was indeed God. About three thousand people were baptized that day. From then on, the believers gathered often to worship God and learn about Him from the apostles. They also shared what they had with one another so that no one among them would be in need. We learned that we should follow the example of the believers and worship God faithfully, as well as share what we have with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

BIBLE STORY

A Crippled Man

One day, Peter and John went to the temple in Jerusalem to pray. They wanted to worship God because they had so much for which to be thankful. He had given them power through the Holy Spirit to do His work, and they were happy that so many people repented and got baptized. They were glad to be able to do what Jesus had commanded them to do.

As Peter and John neared the temple, they saw a poor man sitting by the entrance gate. As they came closer, they realized that this man was lame, unable to walk. This man's friends carried him to the temple gate every day so that he could ask the people passing by for some money. He had been unable to walk for forty years. Because he couldn't work, this was the only way he could feed and clothe himself.

When someone passed by, he would ask, "Please give me some money. I have been crippled all my life and I cannot work." Of course, some of the people who came to the temple would feel sorry for the man and they would give him some money to help him. Others would just ignore him and walk right on.

The Crippled Man Healed

When Peter and John arrived at the gate, the man looked at them and asked them for money, just like he always did.

"Please spare some change for a crippled man like me," he begged. The man held out his hands, hoping Peter and John would give him some money.

But instead of reaching into his pockets, Peter said to the man, "Look at us!"

The man was surprised by these words. Usually, people

either just gave him money or ignored him and walked on. None of them would actually say anything to him. So the man stared at Peter and John, expecting a large sum of money. He was not prepared for what was about to happen. Peter continued to speak.

"I don't have any silver or gold to give you," he said. "But I will give you what I can. In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk."

Then Peter reached out and took the man by his hand. He helped the man stand up. The man didn't have time to think about what was happening to him, but he believed what Peter had just said to him. He stood up courageously and began to feel the strength in his ankles and legs. Soon, he stood up completely and was even able to take some small steps. The man was overjoyed. He never expected to be able to walk. This was the greatest gift anyone could have given to him.

The man followed Peter and John into the temple. Along the way, he shouted praises to God. The people who regularly came to the temple were shocked to see him standing and walking about. They knew that he was the crippled man who sat by the gate every day.

They began to wonder and whisper among themselves, "Isn't he the lame man? How come he is able to walk now? How did it happen?"

Soon a large crowd gathered around this man and they wanted to know what had happened.

Peter Tells the Crowd About Jesus

When Peter saw the great excitement, he stepped up and began to talk about Jesus.

"It wasn't our power that healed this man," said Peter.

“It was Jesus’ power. Jesus was put on the cross and He died for our sins. But God brought Him back to life. John and I know because we were with Him after He rose from the dead. Right now, Jesus is in heaven. Jesus is God. If you repent and become baptized, He can save you, too.”

The people who heard this message were moved. They believed and wanted to be baptized.

Peter and John Are Arrested

As Peter and John spoke about Jesus, the leaders of the temple were also there listening to their message. They didn’t agree with Peter and John because they didn’t believe that Jesus was God and that He had resurrected. The leaders were so angry that Peter and John were teaching about Jesus in the temple grounds that they threatened the two apostles.

“Don’t talk about Jesus here anymore,” they ordered.

But Peter and John bravely answered, “God raised Jesus from the dead. He’s the only one with the power to save us.”

After hearing this, the leaders became even angrier. In fact, they were so mad that they arrested Peter and John and put them in jail. It was late in the evening already so they were going to wait until the next morning to question the two apostles. However, those who had seen the miracle and heard God’s message still believed and more people got baptized. Now the number of believers rose to more than five thousand.

Peter and John Are Questioned

The next morning, Peter and John were released from jail

and brought before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high court. Many believers also came to see what would happen. The court officials wanted the two apostles to explain where they got the power to perform such a miracle.

Peter, who was filled with the Holy Spirit, answered, “It was by the power of Jesus Christ that the crippled man was healed. This is the same Jesus Christ whom you crucified. But God raised Him from the dead. He is the only one who can offer salvation.”

The leaders did not like what they had just heard. But because many people had gathered to watch and were praising God for the miracle, they were afraid to punish Peter and John. Instead, they warned the apostles not to speak about Jesus again and let them go.

The Believers Pray

After Peter and John were released, they told the other believers what had happened to them. Then everyone prayed to God to thank Him for His guidance and protection.

They said in their prayer, “Lord, we know You’re in charge of all things. You made the whole world and You planned everything in it. We will continue to rely on your power to help us preach about You. We will not be afraid of the threats from other people who do not know You. Please fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit.”

God did answer their prayer because He gave them the strength and courage they needed. Filled with this courage and strength, they went everywhere, telling others about Jesus.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. The crippled man wanted _____ (money) from Peter and John.
2. Instead of giving the lame man money, the apostles _____ (healed) the man and he was able to walk.
3. After being healed, the man went into the temple with Peter and John, shouting praises to God. True.
4. How many people now believed in God after Peter and John performed this miracle? About five thousand.
5. What did the leaders of the temple do to Peter and John? They put them in jail.
6. The leaders arrested Peter and John because they were preaching about how Jesus rose from the dead and that He had the power to save. True.
7. Peter and John were afraid to continue preaching about Jesus after they were released because of the threats from the Jewish leaders. False; they received courage from God and boldly went out to preach.
8. Why was healing the crippled man a better gift than money? He could now walk and earn his own money to make a living.
9. Where did Peter and John get their power? They got it from God through prayer.
10. How can you have the same kind of trust and faith in God? By relying on God through prayer.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.

You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Testimony: Healed from A Malignant Brain Tumor

Note: Read this testimony to your students and discuss the following points.

Sister from Fuzhou, China

I was raised in a Christian family from the True Jesus Church. Presently, I am 21 years old and live in the provincial town of Fuzhou, China.

My sickness began in January 1996 with headaches, which I mistook for flu symptoms. However, as the pain became more acute, I went for a CT scan at the local hospital on April 22nd. The results revealed a 2 x 2.5 cm tumor. On April 29th, I was admitted to the General Hospital of the Nanjing Military Sector in Fuzhou for a 1.5T Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan, which showed a 4 x 2.5 cm tumor located at the central part of my brain. It was at the terminal stage of malignancy, and surgery was not possible. The only alternative was laser therapy, but the high cost (tens of thousands Renminbi) and the possible side effects, which included brain damage, deterred us from continuing the treatment after two futile sessions.

My condition worsened by the day. The increased swelling of the tumor pressed against some nerves, causing me to lapse into periods of unconsciousness. During the first half of May, these occurred once or twice a day, each time lasting for about 30 minutes. On May 20th and 21st, the frequency increased to more than ten times. On May 22nd, I was unconscious most of the day. During the brief periods of consciousness, I was gripped by such excruciating pain that I kept screaming and wishing that I were dead. To relieve my agony, the doctors had operated twice on me (May 5th and 9th) to drain out the fluid that had accumulated in my brain. What came out was bloody and purulent, filling a few small containers. The best doctors in that hospital could do nothing to cure me. I was contemplating a transfer to another hospital but a doctorate holder and authority in the specialist field of brain tumors told me that I was suffering from the worst of three incurable pathological conditions in medical science. Moreover, the tumor was so precariously positioned that no medical technology in the world could help. Even if I were to transfer to another hospital for surgery, at best I would end up a living vegetable. "If this hospital cannot do anything," he said, "it will be worse elsewhere." So I decided to go home and rely totally on the Lord. When we came to a dead end, God began His work.

On May 23rd, I returned home. The doctors feared that the tedious journey might put me in danger. They specially arranged for oxygen tanks to be taken along. Also, my family prepared for the worst. However, under God's protection and care, during the journey, I experienced none of the half-hourly bouts of pain leading to unconsciousness. I felt very little pain. My family realized that there was no cure that medical science could offer me; only by relying totally on God Almighty could we have a ray of hope. My entire family fasted and prayed. At the same time, many churches offered intercessory prayers for me. Many brethren came to visit and prayed with me for the mercy of God.

On May 24th, at midnight, I felt someone telling me I had only four days to live, and I became frantic. This was the devil's work. On May 25th (Sabbath day), many believers were praying for me at noon when the devil appeared. He announced that he had come from Xiamen to disturb me because I had given him an opportunity through my love of the world and my weak faith. After much earnest prayer, we drove Satan away and I felt much relieved. At 2:00 pm the same day, we started praying earnestly again, and I was filled with the Holy Spirit and said, "The Lord will operate on me." At that moment, I felt the tissue around the tumor being removed.

The next day, at about 7:30 pm, the grace of the Lord came upon me. Everyone in the house except my mother had gone to church and I was lying in bed praying, when suddenly, a shockwave ran through my head, leaving it numbed, as if an electric current had run through it. I thought it was another seizure, and that the Lord was taking me home. So I shouted, "Mo~m, pray! Quick!" Suddenly I felt something that reminded me of being given anesthetics. At this thought, my entire body became anesthetized from head to toe. Only my mouth could manage some hymns. Half an hour later, I was filled with the Spirit in prayer, and felt a force opening up my clasped hands and placing a soft round object in my palm. After that, I clasped my hands tighter, but the force opened up my hands again. This happened a total of four times. On the last time, I even tossed the object in my hand lightly a few times. Great comfort and joy swept over me.

It was past 8:00 pm, and I was still praying as the people returned from church. As they were about 50 meters away from my house, they heard the sound of many people praying in my room. My relatives thought that something unfortunate had happened to me. They rushed in but were amazed to see only my mother and me. Actually, a host of angels had been praying for me, and operating on me. They even placed the excised tumor in my palm to make this experience more vivid. On May 28th, I could sit up by myself on the bed (previously, I had to be supported by others) and even get down to walk. Deep in my heart I knew that the Lord had sent His angels to perform surgery on me. Oh, what joy I felt! I laughed and sang loudly, praising Jesus for His glorious work on me. It was then that my mother discovered a surgical scar on the right side of my skull, shaped like an olive. This was the exact position where the doctors had intended to make the surgical incision. The angelic surgeons had left this mark on me as a testimony for the Lord. Before my sickness, I had a full head of beautiful hair. At Fuzhou Hospital, my hair was totally shaven off. Now that my hair has started to grow, it contrasts with the whitish scar on my head, attesting to the greatness of God's grace.

I can now eat and drink normally, and attend Sabbath services. Not only can I walk normally, I can even stand for an hour to testify in church. This is how the Lord personally healed me of a brain tumor. I will lift up my voice to praise Jesus, for only He is my greatest trust, and only He is able to heal me.

O Lord, You are the Almighty and Sovereign. I will follow You and bear witness for You all the days of my life. To You, I pledge my faithful service and resolution to proclaim Your gospel. May all glory be given to God in heaven. Hallelujah, Amen!

Teachings:

It is clear from the Bible that Jesus healed—and healed often. In Matthew 4:23, we can see that Jesus' main ministry consisted of three things.

“And Jesus went about all Galilee,
 (1) teaching in their synagogues,
 (2) preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and
 (3) healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”

Healing people was not something that Jesus simply did on the side. It was one of His main reasons for coming. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus still heals according to His plan and will. We need to ask ourselves whether or not we have trust and faith in God.

God will do for you according to your belief. If you believe Jesus has the power, you can completely trust in Him and have faith. James 5:15 states that a "prayer of faith will save the sick." From this, we can see that there is an important component that we need in our prayers if we want to get well. There must be **faith** involved in the prayer.

Having faith is having complete trust in Christ and relying on Him alone for everything. Thus, when we believe and have faith or pray in faith, we are committing ourselves completely to the will of our Savior. Everything is done according to His will. We just need to fully trust in Him. If we put our complete trust in Him, great things will happen.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. I, Christ, strengthens
5. We can pray to God, sing hymns, and read the Bible.
6. They healed the crippled man in the name of Jesus. They bravely talked to the crowd and the leaders of the temple.
7. Those who have not yet come to know Him, such as our family and friends who aren't in church.

ACTIVITY

1 Relying on Jesus

Objective: To identify things that are difficult for the students to do.

Instructions: Divide the class into two or three teams, depending on the number of students (maximum 5 students per team). Have each team take turns suggesting things they find difficult to do. Record their suggestions on the board. You may wish to divide the board into two or three columns, according to each team's ideas. You can also begin this activity by giving some of your own suggestions. Possible ideas are:

1. Doing homework when you want to play with your friends.
2. Being nice to someone who is mean to you.
3. Saying "I am sorry" after you've done something wrong.
4. Saying "No" to a good friend even though what they are asking you to do is wrong.
5. Not talking back to parents or teachers.
6. Telling a friend to follow Jesus.
7. Not using bad language when all of your friends are.

After the suggestions have been given, have each team huddle and decide as a team three things they find difficult to do. They must agree as a team. They can select from the list on the board. Have each team report their top three, then lead a discussion on how they can overcome these difficulties. Remind them that they can rely on God's power because He is all-powerful and nothing is impossible for Him!

2 Strength from God

Objective: To remind the students to rely on God's power and strength.

Materials

- Markers
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Tape
- Scissors

Instructions: Make sure that each student has a copy of the mini-poster on page 15. Let them color it in and highlight the memory verse. Then glue each one on a piece of construction paper that has been cut to the same size. Encourage your students to hang the poster in their rooms to remind them to rely on God.

3 Christ Gives Me the Strength

Objective: To reinforce to students that our strength comes from God.

Materials

- Poster paper
- Markers, colored pencils

Instructions

1. Ask your students, "What are some things you cannot do if you cannot move your legs?"
2. Have students brainstorm and draw pictures on the edges of the poster.
3. Then have students write down the following Bible verse in the center of the poster. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil 4:13)
4. Decorate the remaining space of the poster.

While doing the activity, remind the students that it is God who gives us the ability to do all things, even everyday things like walking, talking, and learning. Encourage them to always pray to God when they come across something difficult to do, for God will surely help them!

I can do
all things
through
Christ
who
strengthens
me. (Philippians 4:13)



E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 2—A Lame Man Walks

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Peter and John received power from God to do great things.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To trust that God can help us accomplish more than we can on our own.
 2. To learn how to trust in God when we do not have the ability or strength to do something.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Philippians 4:13)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : After the crippled man was healed, a large crowd gathered around. When Peter and John saw them, what did they do?
 - a. Asked them to give the man money.
 - b. Preached about Jesus to them.
 - c. Told them to leave the man alone.

2. ____ : When the leaders of the temple questioned Peter and John, _____.
 - a. They told Peter and John not to speak about Jesus anymore.
 - b. They also wanted to believe in Jesus.
 - c. They were happy that Peter and John were preaching about Jesus.

3. ____ : After Peter and John were released from jail, _____.
 - a. They were afraid to talk about Jesus.
 - b. They went to eat something.
 - c. They thanked God, continued to preach about Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Fill In the Blank

4. " ____ can do all things through _____ who _____ me." (Philippians 4:13)

Short Answer

5. How can we show that we trust in God to help us?

6. How did Peter and John show that they trusted in God's almighty power?

7. To whom can we bravely talk about Jesus?
