

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

OCT. 26/27 - ACTS 3 - THE CRIPPLED MAN IS HEALED

OPENING QUESTION

Think of the last time you came face to face with someone who asked you for money? How did it feel? How did you react to their request?

READ TOGETHER

Acts 3:1-16

BIG IDEA

God wants to do even more than heal us; He wants to use us for His glory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read verses 1-3. *Do you see any connection between this story, which took place almost 2000 years ago, and our 21st century lives here in Calgary?*
2. Read verses 4-5. *How would you define what this lame man wanted and what he needed? Is there any difference between those two things in his life?*
3. Verse 4 talks about how Peter and John “looked intently” at this man – they gave him their full attention. *In our culture, how do people typically respond to those asking for money? How do you do at focusing on people in settings like that?*
4. Read verses 6-7. *Who would you say healed this man? What was Peter’s part?*
5. Read verses 8-11. *What resulted from this healing? (also look at Acts 4:4).*
6. Finish reading Acts 3. Peter preaches about who Jesus is and what He’s done. In the end, a huge group of people believe in Jesus. Now think back over the whole story. *Why do you think God healed this man?*
7. Read Matthew 5:16. *Do you think there is a connection between what God does in our lives and what He wants to do through our lives? What is it?*

CHALLENGE

This week commit to giving your full attention to all who cross your path. At home, in your neighbourhood and at work, do your best to fully focus on those you see and talk with everyday.

PRAYER

Throughout this series we have talked about the role of the Holy Spirit, surrendering to God, being filled with the Spirit, becoming a Spirit-empowered community and not limiting what the Spirit can do in your life. As we consider what we have learned so far in this series, let’s do something a bit different as we process it all and come to God in prayer.

1. Break into smaller groups (guys/girls, triads, 2’s). Smaller the better.
2. Take a few minutes to individually and silently pray as you look over the questions below – ask Him to highlight something in your life or bring you a thought or conviction.
3. Take a few minutes each to share whatever God laid on your heart, and then pray for them.

BECOMING
PART OF THE
RIPPLE
EFFECT



- o **What seems out of reach for you?** Honestly... when you consider all the things that appear utterly impossible in your life; where change, transformation or healing seems like such a pipe dream... what are those things for you?

Is it a relationship that has been broken for so long it seems irreconcilable?

Is it a physical ailment that no matter the prayer or medical help, just won't be healed and overcome?

Is it a vice or temptation that you seem to consistently fall to or struggle with?

Is it someone you love dearly who seems so far from Christ?

Career, money, family, children, the list could go on and on...

What do you think God wants/desires when it comes to area of your life? What do you think He could do?

- o **In what ways do you think God is showing who He is through you in your spheres of influence? What do you hope, dream and pray God would do in your life and through you in the future, when it comes to these spheres of influence? Is there one person in particular that comes to mind?**
- o **What is an area of your life that is difficult to surrender to God?** Why do you think it is a difficult one to let go of, and trust God with? This is a hard thing to do! This could be painful to bring up. Take a risk. Letting others know, and receiving their acceptance, love and prayer is a step of great healing.
- o **What is something you are thankful to God for as we have walked through this series?** How has this changed you or motivated you?
- o **What is something you just can't resolve or come to terms with when it comes to the teaching throughout this series?**
- o **What do you think you need to do? Where do you need to go? What prayers do you need to pray? What do you need God's help with... if you are to move forward from where you are today, to experiencing a Spirit filled, Spirit-empowered life?**

NEXT STEP

A great resource to read on this subject of stepping out of your comfort zone and talking with others is *Just Walk Across the Room* by Bill Hybels. If you're interested in more engagement with this subject, buy the book or read the book summary at:
<http://www.christianbooksummaries.com/library/v3/cbs0321.pdf>

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