

^{3:7} Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. ⁸ He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

⁹ All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. ¹⁰ When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! ¹¹ They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

11. Discussion: (a) What was the man who had been crippled from birth hoping to get from Peter and John as they approached the Beautiful Gate of the Temple? What did he actually receive? (b) What gifts of the Holy Spirit did Peter and John exercise? [See the gifts in 1 Corinthians chapter 12] (c) Why was it important for the crippled man to be strengthened, in addition to being healed? What else is unusual about this healing? (d) Share your ideas about how you think this miracle affected the faith and the growth of the early Church.

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An Interactive Life Application Bible Study of the Acts of the Apostles for Small Groups

Key: Blue = New Testament Red = Words of Jesus
Green = Old Testament Quotes

Lesson 3.

1. Background: In part one of Peter's message during Pentecost, he referred back to the Old Testament prophets in order to explain the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the faithful followers of Jesus.

2. Introduction: In this lesson Peter continues by showing how the Old Testament prophecies and the events he and the apostles witnessed in the life of Jesus laid the foundation for the beginning of a new phase. It would be the era when the Holy Spirit would freely move within and among the People of God.

3. Peter Preaches to the Crowd—Part 2.

In his sermon Peter proclaimed: ^{Acts 2:32-35} "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. ³³ Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. ³⁴ For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said,

^{Acts 2:34} "The LORD said to my Lord,
"Sit in the place of honor at my right hand
³⁵ until I humble your enemies,
making them a footstool under your feet.'" (Psalm 110:1)

4. Discussion: (a) Who are the two "Lords" in the first sentence? (b) Who are the enemies to be humbled?

5. Peter continued: ^{Acts 2:36-41} "Let everyone in Israel know

for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

³⁷ Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

6. Background Information: Messiah means “the Anointed One” --that is, the One chosen by God to be King over God’s People. The Old Testament Prophets often spoke of this *Anointed One*, promising that he would appear at God’s appointed time.”

7. Discussion: (a) Why do you think Peter’s announcement (that Jesus was the promised Messiah) pierced the hearts of the crowd who heard him? (b) In response to the question, “What should we do?” what three things did Peter instruct the people to do? Is it still important to do those same three things? Why? (c) What did Peter say would happen when the people followed his instructions? Who is included in Peter’s promise? (d) Is our generation also “crooked?” If so, how is that true today? (e) Was the original church of 3,000 people made up mostly of Jews or Gentiles?

8. The Believers Form a Community. ^{Acts 2:42-47} All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, including the Lord’s Supper (or Holy Communion), and to prayer.

^{2:43} A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

9. Discussion: (a) What activities and relationships were a regular part of the original Church, established by the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? Why are these qualities still important in the Church of today? (b) What interests and impresses you most about the life style of the fellowship of those first believers in Jesus? (c) Was there anything impractical about any of the things they did? If so, what and why? (d) Why do you think that *apostolic* church experienced continuous daily growth? (e) What part do you think the Holy Spirit played in their life style and growth?

10. Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar ^{Acts 3:1-11} Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o’clock prayer service. ² As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.

⁴ Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. ⁶ But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, ^[from Nazareth] get up and walk!”