

date: **6/25/17****Bible Passage: Acts 3:1–10**
(Healing of the Beggar)

God's Power Changes Everything

REMEMBER VERSE

He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

Psalm 111:9

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

I once traveled to Romania on a mission trip. Though Romania is a beautiful country, its people have struggled to mend the social difficulties established during the communist regime. Because of this, marginal societies and people groups, such as the Gypsies, have been ostracized from society. They have been driven into lives of corruption. Their children have had little hope of breaking out of a tragic cycle of poverty and crime.

Even so, I saw God's power break this cycle in the life of a 10-year-old Gypsy boy named Caoiby (pronounced "Chubby"). When Caoiby was eight, he wandered into a Vacation Bible School and discovered Christ. He was radically changed. Every Sunday after that experience, Caoiby walked several miles to attend church. Though many people dressed rather casually, Caoiby faithfully wore a suit, which was one of only three outfits he owned.

God's powerful love changed the course of Caoiby's life. Instead of growing up to follow a path of crime, like most other boys in his situation, Caoiby desired to someday become a pastor. When I think of Caoiby, I am reminded that God's power can change everything.

Tori Funkhouser
ROCKHARBOR church

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

In Acts 3 we see how God's power changed everything for a crippled beggar. Peter healed the man at the gate



called Beautiful, located within an inner wall of the temple. After the man was healed, he “jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with [Peter and John] into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God” (Acts 3:8).

The temple in first-century Jerusalem was divided into sections. Social status determined how far into the temple one could go. Solomon’s portico was known as the Court of the Gentiles. It was a section of the temple that most anyone was welcome in. It was the only section that the crippled man had ever been allowed to visit.

The Jewish historian Josephus described warning signs that plastered the walls of the Gentile court. One of these warnings read, “No foreigner is to go beyond the balustrade and the plaza of the temple zone. Whoever is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his death, which will follow.” We can deduce that the man knew he wasn’t allowed past Solomon’s portico—on penalty of death.

After his healing, the man could now enter the temple because he wasn’t crippled anymore. He’d probably grown up wanting to enter the temple his entire life, and now he could! He knew, after his healing, that God had elevated him to a new status as a child of God. God’s power had changed everything in his life. God used Peter to emulate the work of the Savior by healing the lame man. God restored the man’s dignity, body, and soul and gave the man a position of dignity as a child of God.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God’s Word

Read Acts 3:1–10. As you reflect on this passage, think about how God’s power has been real in your life. When do you hear God’s voice? How do you respond to Him? How has God used you as His hands and feet? Take some time to ponder these questions. Spend some time journaling through words or art—however you choose to communicate with God.

Then pray the kids will get a glimpse of how their lives fit into The Big God Story. Pray they will be excited to know God is always with them. Pray they will experience how God’s power changes everything in the lives of those who believe.

SMALL GROUP SECTION

EXPLORE// 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day’s portion of The Big God Story.

When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, He brings great power—and a new perspective on life. Lead the children through an EXPLORE during which they experience what it’s like to see things differently.



What Do You See?

SUPPLIES

- Old prescription glasses, binoculars, sunglasses, kaleidoscopes, magnifying glasses, or other optical gizmos (1 per child)

RELATE

Encourage kids to have fun looking through the various optical gizmos and describing what they see.

How do these things change the way you see what's around you? Invite kids to respond. **Imagine seeing the world the way God sees it! We get God's perspective on the world when we trust and obey Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit. It's through God's power that we're changed and become different people. As the Spirit makes us more like Jesus, we can see things in a new and different way—God's way.**

LARGE GROUP

SECTION

DISCOVER// 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.

Traditions and Remember Verse

SUPPLIES

- [Remember Verse image](#) (see Resources)
- Mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)

RELATE

Give the children mementos (such as rocks, marbles, or blocks) for accomplishments such as memorizing the Remember Verse or bringing their Bibles. Have them put the objects into a clear container or add them to a structure, and celebrate when it's complete.

This week's Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name. Psalm 111:9

Connect

Question

What was a time when you needed a pair of binoculars to see something or wished you had a pair to see better?



The Big God Story

Bible Passage: Acts 3:1–10

Storytelling Technique: Distorted/Clear Images and Audience Response

God's Power Changes Everything

SUPPLIES

- Timeline image (see Resources)
- Images: Distorted “God’s Power Changes Everything,” Clear “God’s Power Changes Everything,” Distorted Crippled Beggar, Clear Crippled Beggar, Distorted Amazed Crowd, Clear Amazed Crowd (see Resources)
- Bibles

RELATE

Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds. **When the Holy Spirit came to earth after Jesus rose up to heaven, everything changed! What were some of the amazing things that happened on Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit came?** Invite responses. **Great thoughts. They heard a sound like a great wind and saw what looked like tongues of fire resting above those who believed. They spoke languages they didn’t know, proclaiming the good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection, and three thousand people put their faith in Jesus that day!**

Where does the Holy Spirit live? Invite responses. **Right—He lives inside each person who’s chosen to trust and obey Jesus. And when God’s Spirit lives inside you, you start to see things differently.**

Tech: Cue Distorted “God’s Power Changes Everything” image. It’s hard to see what’s on this picture, isn’t it? We can kind of tell that there are words on it, but it’s hard to read those words. But let’s see what happens when the words become clear. Tech: Cue Clear “God’s Power Changes Everything” image. Now we can see what it says because it’s clear. It’s been changed.

That’s sort of what it’s like to have God’s power in our lives. God helps us to see people and circumstances differently—clearly, with His perspective. God helps us to see how powerful He is. Today, I need your help. Whenever I say, “What did they see?” or “What did he see?” I want you say with me, “God’s power changes everything!” Practice this a few times.

One person who saw God’s power change everything was the apostle Peter. Invite kids to open their Bibles to Acts 3:2 and follow along. **The Bible says that one day, as Peter walked to the temple to pray, “a man who was [crippled] from birth was being carried to the temple gate ... where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts” (v. 2). Do you think Peter had seen this man before?** Invite responses. *Tech: Cue Distorted Crippled Beggar image.* **Jewish people went to the temple three times a day, so if this man begged at the temple every day, Peter had probably seen him many times before.**

But God’s Spirit lived inside Peter now. So when the crippled beggar asked Peter for money, the Bible says Peter “looked straight at him” (v. 4). Tech: Cue Clear Crippled Beggar image. And what did he see? Invite kids to say the sentence with you. **God’s power changes everything! Peter said to the man, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk” (v. 6). Wow! Peter told this man who had lived his whole life without the use of his legs to walk! What do you think happened?** Invite responses. **Yes. The man stood up and walked! He jumped up and praised God!**



What did Peter say to the man before he was healed? Peter said, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” By saying this, Peter was recognizing that only through the power of God could the man be healed. It was God who helped Peter to see the beggar with compassion. It was God’s power that healed the man.

God used this situation to bring people to believe in Him. *Tech: Cue Distorted Amazed Crowd image.* Peter wasn’t the only one who had seen the man begging every day at the temple gate. Almost everyone at the temple had seen this man begging. And now what did they see? *Tech: Cue Clear Amazed Crowd image.* Invite kids to say the sentence with you. **God’s power changes everything!**

Invite kids to turn to verses 9–10 and follow along. **The Bible says, “When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him ... and they were filled with wonder and amazement”** (vv. 9–10). They wanted to know how this man had been healed. So Peter told them. He told everyone who would listen that Jesus’ power had healed this man. And more people came to believe in Jesus!

God’s power is just as active today as it was in the days when Peter was alive. When we believe in Jesus, God’s Spirit still comes and lives inside us. His Spirit still changes everything in our lives. We might not be able to heal people like Peter did, but God still wants to do amazing things as His power works through us. Share a story about a time you experienced God’s power working through you to bring Him glory.

Throughout The Big God Story and even today, we consistently see God’s power at work. *Tech: Cue Clear “God’s Power Changes Everything” image.* What can we see? And what did they see? Invite kids to say sentence with you. **God’s power changes everything!**

As a child of God, the Holy Spirit can work through you in conversations, relationships, giving to others, and many other ways. God can work through you to change lives just like He worked through Peter to change the life of the beggar. When God’s Spirit lives inside us, God helps us to see how His power changes the world.

SMALL GROUP SECTION

RESPOND// 15 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.

Reflect: God’s Power Changes Everything

Encourage children to look up the following verses in their Bibles.

Questions for Younger Kids

- How did God use Peter in the beggar’s life? Acts 3:6–8
- How did God use the beggar’s healing to bring other people to Him? Acts 3:9–10
- How does God use people today? 1 Peter 4:10; James 5:16



- How are we able to hear God's voice? John 14:26
- How have you seen God's power at work in your life or the life of someone you know?

Questions for Older Kids

- What does it mean to say the Holy Spirit lives inside us? Acts 1:8
- How did God use the beggar's healing to bring other people to Him? Acts 3:9–10
- How does it make you feel to know Jesus is alive and working in the world today?
- How does God use people today? 1 Peter 4:10; James 5:16
- How are we able to hear God's voice? John 14:26
- How have you seen God's power at work in your life or the life of someone you know?

BLESS// 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 5 (see Resources)
- Bible

RELATE

Have the kids hold their hands in front of them, palms up. Encourage the children to listen for the word "still" in the Blessing verse and to make themselves still as well. Then open a Bible and read Psalm 46:10a:

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

May you be still this week and know God's power in your life. May you feel God's Spirit changing you and helping you follow Him.

