

# Open Bible Stories — Peter and John Heal a Beggar

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## Introduction

### Key Idea

The story of Peter and John healing a beggar teaches us God can use miraculous healings/events to provide an opportunity to preach the good news about Jesus.

### Core Belief Verse

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:12-13*

### God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife, and she bore twins Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from slavery.

God judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people, who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom. He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

Many of Israel's kings were evil, and the kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms.

God sent prophets to warn his people of God's judgment and call them to repent.

When Israel did not repent, God sent his people into exile. After many years, he brought them back to the land.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Messiah to deliver his people from their sin.

After many years, the prophet John was born. He would prepare people for the coming Messiah.

At the perfect time, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin Mary.

When John and Jesus grew up, John baptized Jesus as a sign that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

Jesus endured all manner of temptation without ever sinning.

When he was thirty years old, he launched a public ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.

He taught his disciples about the life of compassion, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

Jesus performed many miracles: he fed a crowd of five thousand, he walked on water, he healed the sick, and he cast out demons.

He proclaimed to people the nature of real faith, God's kingdom, and how fallen humans can be restored in relationship with God.

Toward the end of his ministry, Jesus revealed his power and glory to his disciples.

He raised a dead man to life.

Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples and put on trial before a Roman governor.

Jesus was sentenced to death and crucified on a cross

Three days later, Jesus rose again from the dead.

After meeting with many of his disciples, Jesus went back to heaven.

The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus' followers and formed them into his church.

Jesus' disciples, like Peter and John, performed miracles and preached the good news about Jesus.

## The Story: Peter and John Heal a Beggar

44-01



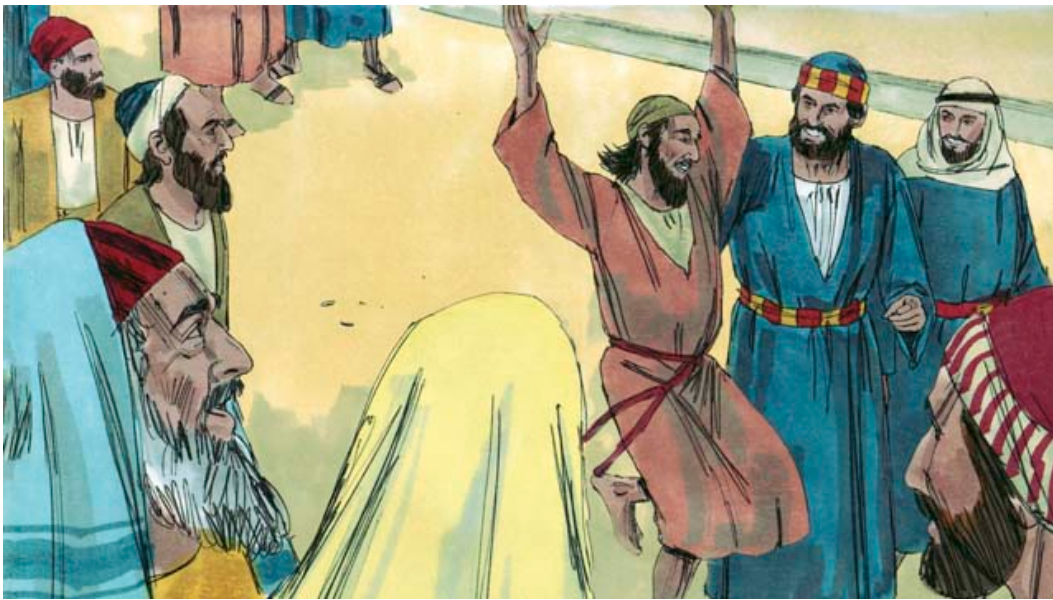
One day Peter and John went to the Temple. A crippled man was sitting at the gate, begging for money.

44-02



Peter looked at the lame man and said, "I do not have any money to give you. But I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus, get up and walk!"

44-03



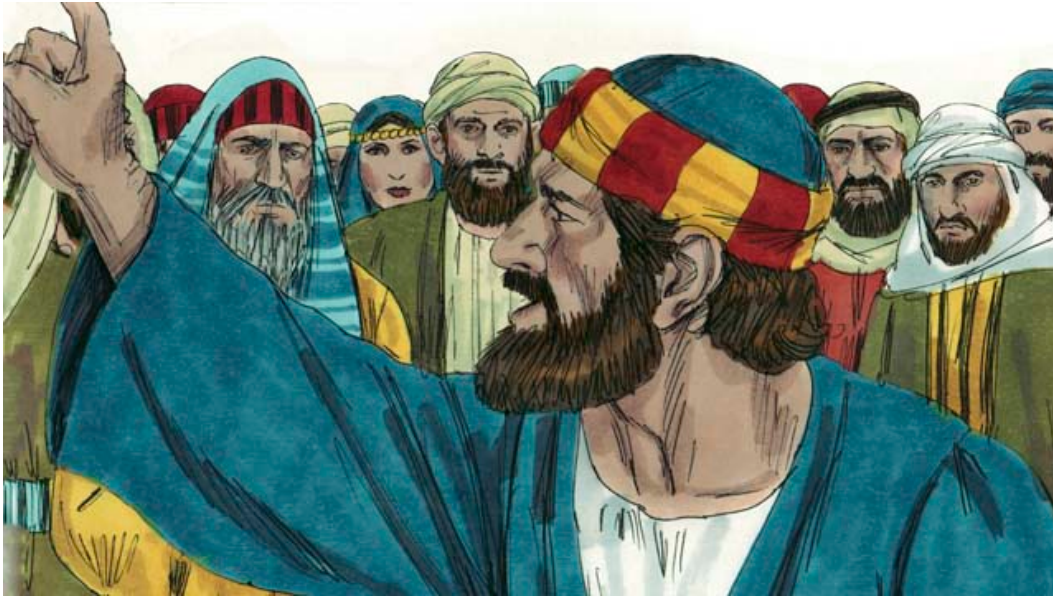
Immediately, God healed the lame man. He began to walk and jump around and to praise God. The people in the courtyard of the Temple were amazed.

44-04



A crowd of people quickly came to see the man who was healed. Peter said to them, "This man is well, but do not be amazed at this. We did not heal him with our own power, or because we honor God. Rather, it is Jesus who healed this man with his power because we believe in Jesus."

44-05



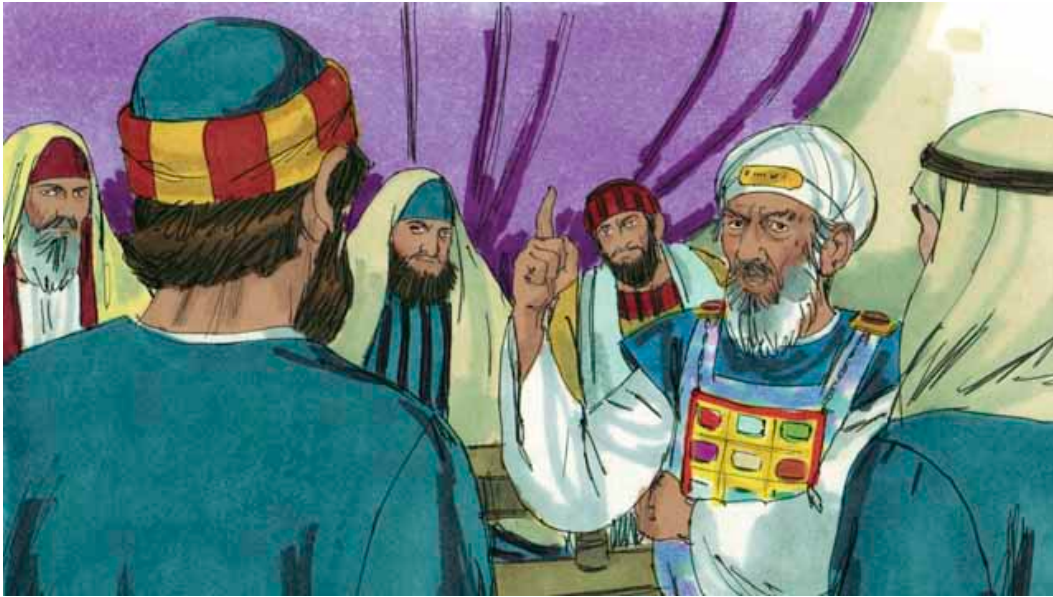
"You are the ones who told the Roman governor to kill Jesus. You killed the one who gives life to everybody. But God raised him from the dead. You did not understand what you were doing, but when you did those things, what the prophets said came true. They said that the Messiah would suffer and die. God made it happen in this way. So now, repent and turn to God, so that he will wash away your sins."

44-06



When the leaders of the Temple heard Peter and John, they were very upset. So they arrested them and put them in prison. But many people believed what Peter said. The number of men who believed in Jesus grew to about 5,000.

44-07



The next day the Jewish leaders brought Peter and John to the high priest and the other religious leaders. They also brought the man who had been crippled. They asked Peter and John, "By what power did you heal this crippled man?"

44-08



Peter answered them, "This man standing before you has been healed by the power of Jesus the Messiah. You crucified Jesus, but God raised him to life again! You rejected him, but there is no other way to be saved except through the power of Jesus!"



The leaders were shocked that Peter and John spoke so boldly. They saw that these men were uneducated and ordinary men. But then they remembered that these men had been with Jesus. So they said to them, "We will punish you very much if you give any more messages to the people about this man Jesus." After saying many things like this, they let Peter and John go.

*A Bible story from: Acts 3-4:22*

## Community Study: Loving Community—Treating Others Like God Treats Them

**Key Idea:** acting toward each other with loving

**Key Passage:** Ephesians 4:25-5:2

**Main Session:** OBS 44 (Peter and John Heal a Beggar)

**Recite the Core Belief Verse** (3-5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

*2 I give praise to Yahweh with all my life, and I remember all of his good deeds. 3 He forgives all your sins; he heals all your diseases. Psalm 103:2-3*

OR

*24 He himself carried our sins in his body to the tree, so that we would have no more part in sin, and so that we would live for righteousness. By his bruises you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24*

**Name Key Behaviors** (5-10 minutes)

Think about how a loving community acts toward one another. Discuss together the specific actions that help a community love one another.

A community of believers that loves one another acts in this way...

**Read the Passage** (3-5 minutes)

The church is a community of love. When people believe in Jesus, they are changed in their relationships with one another. Read the passage below to learn about what God teaches believers to relate to each other.

*4:25 Therefore, get rid of lies, and let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, because we are members of one another. 26 Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go*

*down on your anger. 27 Do not give an opportunity to the devil. 28 The one who had been stealing must steal no longer. He must labor, doing useful work with his hands, so that he may have something to share with those who are in need. 29 Do not let any filthy talk come out of your mouth. Use only words that are helpful for building others up, according to their needs, that your words would be helpful to those who hear you. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, for it is by him that you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Put away all bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and insults, along with every kind of evil. 32 Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as dearly loved children. 2 And walk in love, as also Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 4:25-5:2*

**Discuss the Passage** (10-15 minutes)

The gospel transforms the way we treat each other. As believers, we need to learn new ways of doing relationships. As a community, use the following questions to discuss the teaching of the biblical passage.

1. What are the key instructions of this passage? How does this passage teach believers to treat each other?
2. How are these instructions different than the way unbelievers treat people?
3. Which of these instructions do you find most difficult? Why do you find this most difficult?
4. How can your community demonstrate love toward each other in these ways? What concrete rhythms and practices can you do to help cultivate love in your team/community?

**Write Down a Name** (5 minutes)

Spend time in personal prayer. Ask God to reveal the name of one person in your community/team that he wants you to talk to. This can be a person he wants you to forgive, to encourage, or to appreciate. Write down the name of this person and what God wants you to say to them.

One person God wants me to speak to today is...

This is what God wants me to say to this person...

**Pray to God** (5 minutes)

Pray as a whole community. Have members of your community pray the specific instructions of the passage. Ask God to help your community apply these instructions.

**Sing a Song** (3-5 minutes)

Identify a song that expresses God's love for his people and the love between God's people. Sing this song together as a community.

## **Movement 1: Understand the Story**

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*Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.*

### **Observation Questions**

44-01

Where were Peter and John going at the beginning of this story?

Peter and John were going to the Temple.

What was the crippled man doing at the gate of the Temple?

He was begging for money.

44-02

How did Peter respond to the lame man?

Peter looked at him and said that he did not have money to give him but would give him what he had.

What did Peter give to the lame man instead of money?

In the name of Jesus, Peter told him to get up and walk.

44-03

What happened to the lame man when Peter told him to get up and walk?

God healed the man immediately.

What did the lame man do when he was healed?

The lame man walked, jumped around, and praised God.

How did the people in the Temple respond to this healing?

The people in the Temple courtyard were amazed.

*44-04*

Who gathered around the man who was healed?

A crowd of people quickly gathered to see the man who was healed.

What did Peter tell the crowd about Peter and John's role in the healing?

Peter told the crowd not to be amazed at the healing and not to think that Peter and John healed the man in their own power or godliness.

What did Peter say caused the crippled man to be healed?

He said Jesus healed the man with his power because Peter and John believed in Jesus.

*44-05*

Who did Peter say killed Jesus?

He said the people in the crowd told the Roman governor to kill Jesus.

What did God do to Jesus after Jesus was killed?

The people were responsible for killing Jesus, the giver of life, but God brought Jesus back to life.

Did the people understand what they were doing?

Peter told the people that they did not really understand what they were doing, but the prophets predicted that these things would come true.

What prophecies did the people fulfill when they killed Jesus?

The prophets said that the Messiah would suffer and die.

What did Peter tell the people that they should do?

They should repent and turn to God so that he would wash away their sins.

*44-06*

How did the leaders of the Temple react to Peter's message?

The leaders of the Temple were very upset. They arrested Peter and John and put them in prison.

How many men believed in Jesus as a result of Peter's message?

Many people believed Peter's message; about 5,000 men believed.

*44-07*

Where did the Jewish leaders bring Peter and John the next day?

They brought Peter and John to the high priest and other religious leaders.

Who else did the Jewish leaders bring to this meeting?

They also brought the cripple man who was healed.

What did they ask Peter and John?

They asked Peter and John by what power they healed the cripple man.

*44-08*

By what power did Peter say the crippled man was healed?

Peter said that the crippled man was healed by the power of Jesus.

What did Peter say about the way the religious leaders treated Jesus?

Peter said that they rejected and killed Jesus, but God brought Jesus back to life.

What did Peter say is the only way to be saved?

He said the only way to be saved is through the power of Jesus.

*44-09*

How did the leaders respond to the message of Peter and John?

They were shocked that Peter and John spoke so boldly.

Why were the Jewish leaders shocked at the preaching of Peter and John?

Peter and John were ordinary, uneducated men.

What helped the leaders to understand how ordinary, uneducated people could preach so boldly?

The leaders remembered that Peter and John had been with Jesus.

What did the Jewish leaders finally decide to do with Peter and John?

They threatened to punish them if they continued to preach this message and then let them go.

## **Movement 2: Theological Questions**

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*Answer the following theology questions as a community. Discuss what truths this story teaches.*

1. How mighty is the power of Jesus? How does this story show the power of Jesus?
2. What role do miracles and healings have in God's mission? What does this story teach us about the role miracles have in advancing the gospel?
3. How should believers expect to suffer for faithfully following Jesus and preaching the gospel? How does this story teach us about how disciples experience suffering as they serve Jesus?

## **Movement 3: Live It Out**

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### **Personal Implications & Applications From The Story**

*Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.*

1. Which of the struggles that the Gerasene man and bleeding woman can you most relate to from your own experience?
2. How has Jesus delivered you from your struggles?
3. Which of the responses to Jesus in this story describes your faith?
4. Think about this week. Where does "Peter and John Heal a Beggar" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of Peter and John healing a beggar teaches us God can use miraculous healings/events to provide an opportunity to preach the good news about Jesus.

## **Movement 4: Retell the Story**

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*Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.*

1. Can someone retell "Peter and John Heal a Beggar" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.

3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

### **Church Ministry**

Reflect on how this story can edify and mature the Christian community. Design a way to minister this story to your church community.

**Ministry Preparation:** Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. Record some ministry ideas below.

**Ministry Implementation:** Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

**Ministry Reflection:** Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. Reflect on your experience below.

### **Movement 5: Share It**

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*Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.*

1. Who is one specific person you will share "Peter and John Heal a Beggar" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

### **Mission Engagement**

Consider how you will witness this story to unbelievers. Design a way to share this story and engage them in what it teaches about Christianity and the gospel.

**Witness Preparation:** Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. Record some ideas below.

**Witness Implementation:** Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story. Record your ministry plan below.

**Witness Reflection:** Think about what you learned from ministering this story to unbelievers. Reflect on your experience below.