#### Lesson 3:

#### The Cripple Cured

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Acts 3

MEMORY WORK:

Mark 16:15

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I must remember to be kind to those who have any kind of physical problem, treating them as I would want to be treated if I had the same problem.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Review last week’s lesson. When did the Church begin? Whose sermon on the Day of Pentecost is recorded? How many were baptized that day?

Have you ever seen someone who couldn’t walk, see, or talk? What do you think it would be like if you had something wrong like that? There are many people in the world that can’t see, walk, hear, etc. We always need to make sure we are kind to them. In today’s story, Peter and John met a man that couldn’t walk. Let’s see how they treated him and what wonderful thing they did for him!

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. During the early days of the Church, Christians often met near the Temple in Jerusalem to worship and be together. This was also a good place to attract attention to what they were teaching about Jesus. One day Peter and John went to the Temple about 3:00 in the afternoon (one of the specified times of prayer for Jews). [“The ninth hour,” according to Jewish time, would have been 3:00 p.m. because time was counted from 6:00 a.m.—considered to be the first hour of the day time.]
2. At one of the gates to the Temple lay a crippled man who spent his days begging from everyone who came by. He had been unable to walk his entire life; he was over 40 years old (Acts 4:22). [Remind the children that there was no special treatment available (medical or otherwise) for people born with disabilities or handicaps. They were not allowed to attend school and received little or no training in trades.] The crippled man had friends or family who carried him every day to the Temple gate to do the only thing he knew how to do: beg. It was a very sad life.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** The “gate called Beautiful,” where this crippled man and others begged, was the entrance to the Court of the Women in the Temple that Herod the Great built. Scholars believe that this gate was in the eastern wall of the Temple and was covered in gold so that it shone brightly when the Sun rose every morning. Herod built the Temple to soften the Jewish attitudes toward himself and the Romans. Herod’s Temple was begun in 20-19 B.C. and was not completed until A.D. 64—only six years before it was completely destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70.

1. When the crippled man asked Peter and John for “alms” (a donation, a gift of money), the two apostles did not ignore him or look over him as many other people did. Peter “fixed his eyes” on him (looked at the man intently). Just as Jesus touched lepers and other people who were considered “unclean,” Peter looked into the eyes of a man considered to be “just a beggar.” Peter and John had been poor fishermen. They had left everything to follow Jesus and had no money (no silver or gold) to give the crippled man. But they could give him something much more valuable than money. They could help him walk, just as Jesus had helped people walk while He was on the Earth.
2. Peter promised the poor man a great gift, and taking his hand, lifted him to his feet. Peter helped the man stand up for the first time in his life! This was the first miracle performed by an apostle in the book of Acts after Pentecost. Like all other miracles, this one was done to demonstrate the power of God and to prove that the message of the apostles was from God. This miracle was not done to make Peter and John famous; but it did attract a lot of attention to them very quickly.
3. The man who was healed went into the Temple. This would have been the first time in his life that he was able to enter the Temple, because crippled people were not allowed there; they were considered not “whole” or “without blemish.” [As appropriate, discuss what it would be like if handicapped people were not allowed in our church buildings.]
4. How did others react to the man who was no longer crippled? Many in the Temple recognized him because they were accustomed to seeing him every day begging. They were “filled with wonder” and“amazed” (3:10). A large crowd gathered around Peter and John at Solomon’s Porch, a covered walkway on the eastern side of the Temple. There may have been people in the crowd who had heard Peter preach the first Gospel sermon on Pentecost. Surely there were many who knew about the growing number of Christians in Jerusalem.
5. Peter tried to make sure the people did not try to give John and him credit for the miracle. He emphasized that only God—Whom the Jews claimed to love and obey—could do such a great thing. He reminded them that the same God was the heavenly Father of the man Jesus, whom the Jews had insisted Pilate crucify (“whom **you** delivered up and denied”—verse 13). He accused the crowd of murder, saying he was an eyewitness to their crime. He said they acted in ignorance (without a complete understanding) because they did not listen to Jesus or recognize that He was the fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies. He told them that Jesus had been raised from the dead and was with God—until the time of judgment. Peter told them they must repent; they needed to turn from their “wicked ways” (verse 26) to be pleasing to God.
6. Peter wanted many people to change their lives and follow Jesus, but think how the crippled man was changed because he could walk! Peter took the time to talk to the crippled man and to help him. [Discuss with the children what it would be like if we were suddenly crippled, deaf, blind, etc. Do we take for granted our physical abilities? How do we treat people who are disabled or different in any way? Are we any more important to God than someone who can’t see or walk or talk, etc?]

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* C is for Cripple Cured Page – Copy page on regular paper. Copy legs onto cardstock. Laminate pieces separately then attach with a brad. Keep for NT Binder
* Tie students legs together around knees and ankles with scarves. Give the children simple directions to do without using their legs. Discuss how life was difficult for the blind man.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Peter and John Wheel – Template is in lesson file. For time, copy onto cardstock and pre-cut pieces. Let students color the pictures. Attach the wheels with a brad (brass fastener). Make sure the children can retell the story as they turn the wheel

### Review Questions

1. What time was it when Peter and John went to the Temple?
	1. The ninth hour, or three o’clock in the afternoon
2. For how long had the man begging beside the Temple been crippled?
	1. His entire life, more than 40 years
3. What did Peter do when the crippled man asked him for money?
	1. He “fixed his eyes” on him. He told him that he did not have money, but he could give him something much more valuable. Peter then took the crippled man’s hand and helped him up, miraculously helping him stand for the first time in his life.
4. Did Peter do this miracle to make himself and the apostle John famous?
	1. No. It was done to confirm their message as being from God.
5. Where did the man who was no longer crippled go first?
	1. Into the Temple
6. How did other people react to the man who was no longer crippled?
	1. When they recognized him, they were filled with wonder and were amazed.
7. Where did the people gather around Peter and John?
	1. At Solomon’s Porch, a covered walkway on the eastern side of the Temple
8. Of what did Peter accuse the people that had gathered around to hear him speak?
	1. Murder; They had delivered Jesus to Pilate.
9. What did Peter tell them had happened to Jesus?
	1. He had been raised from the dead and was with God until the time of judgment.
10. What did Peter tell the people they must do?
	1. Repent from their wicked ways and be converted so their sins could be blotted out

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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