

Fun Family Activities to reinforce the story Peter Heals from Acts 3:1-10

Key Verse:

“I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.”

Acts 3:6

The Point:

What we do has the power to touch others with God’s love.

Making Connections:

God Works through Us

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Story of the Early Church

Spiritual Practice:

Prayer



Background for Adults and older children:

Making Connections

In our last lesson we read Jesus' ascension into heaven and his charge to the disciples to carry on his work in the world (Acts 1:1-14). Today's lesson picks up as the disciples continue Jesus' work of spreading God's love and bringing healing to those in need.

Story Summary:

Peter Heals

It is on their way to pray at the temple that Peter and John enact the first recorded act of healing after Jesus' ascension to heaven. They encounter a man who could not walk who asks them for some money. They respond that they have no gold but they will give the man what they have. They speak healing words over the man and he is able to walk again. Although they do not give the man the temporary relief he requests, what they do give him is infinitely more valuable—healing which will transform his life forever.

This is a beautiful moment in the life of the disciples, marking not only the evidence that they do in fact wield Jesus' power of healing; but that they also possess Jesus' wisdom to look deeply into every situation, to do the most good.

The Point

What we do has the power to touch others with God's love.

God's love is not just about comfort but also about giving people new power. The man who could not walk was only looking for comfort and a bit of money to meet his material needs. But God's intention for him was healing and new power for his life. We can pray to God knowing that God will hear us and work through us. But knowing that God is also actively moving to make our lives better is very exciting. Who knows what God will do next?

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Story of the Early Church

The early church began on the first Pentecost when many disciples of Jesus were given the Holy Spirit. They began to preach the good news about Jesus. The main leadership of the early church was in Jerusalem, led by the apostles and James, Jesus' brother. The early church also faced persecution from Roman and Jewish authorities. Paul started out as a persecutor of Christians but converted to Christianity. Paul went on three mission trips to spread the news of Jesus to the gentiles, or people who were not Jewish. This led to a controversy in the church. Some people thought only Jews could become Christian. The first Council of Jerusalem decided that anybody could become Christian and Paul could continue his missionary work.

Spiritual Practice: Prayer

Prayer happens any time we intentionally share our lives with God, or hear what God says to us. Prayer can happen not only through our speaking, but also through our singing, creative expression, and imaginative meditation. Whatever vehicle we choose, though, we can rest assured that God is willing and able to hear us and respond with compassion and loving action.

Let's read the Bible Story Together!

Open your Spark Story Bible to Peter Heals, pages 506-509. If you don't have a Spark Story Bible, use the story attached.

Older kids: Look up the book of Acts, Chapter 3, verses 1-10.

Where is the book of Act in the Bible? Old or New Testament? (New) Let's find it in our Bible Table of Contents. If you have an Adventure Bible (3rd and 4th graders should have one— if you don't let Julie Hanson know), read the title page of this book together to see who wrote this book, why it was written, who it was written for, etc. Then find the third Chapter to start reading the story for today. Read the Did You Know section if your Bible has it. Also, if your Bible has a "Let's Live it!" section on this first page of Acts, read this together.

Ask these questions:

Where did the people carry the man that couldn't walk to? (The Beautiful Gate)

What did the man who could not walk ask Peter and John? (for money)

What did they give him instead? (they healed him!)

What did the man do after he was healed? (he danced, skipped and hopped into the temple)

Let's put on some music and dance, skip and hop like the man did! Imagine how happy that man was!! Alleluia! It's a whole body Alleluia!

(Have a little dance party in your living room, or even outside in the yard!)

Your Beautiful Gate

Using the attached picture, decorate your own Beautiful Gate, the place where the man was sitting. You might include crayons or markers, glitter glue, craft jewels, etc. Can you write Alleluia somewhere on the gate?

Healing Relay Game

Play a game about healing.

You will need Masking tape or a ribbon to mark the finish line.

Make a finish line on one side of the yard or room.

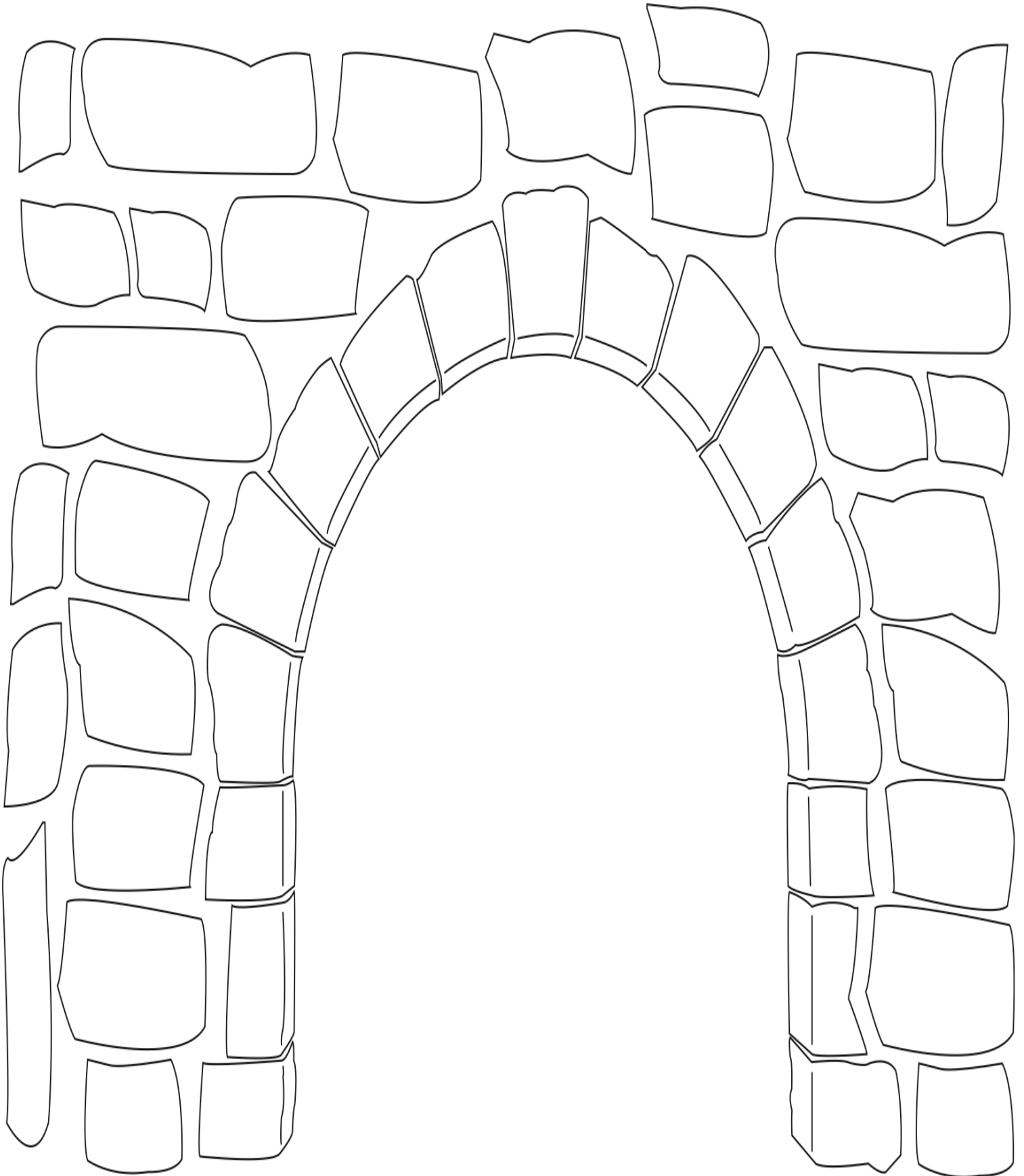
1. **In our story today, we encounter a man who cannot walk well. We are going to have a race where we cannot walk and then we will be healed by Peter.**
2. Line up on one side of the yard or room. Choose a Peter to stand behind the finish line.
3. **For our race, the first person in line will hop on one leg down to Peter. Peter will say, "In the name of Jesus, you are healed." Then the person who is lame will run, skip and dance back to their team, shouting, "Praise Jesus! I am healed— Alleluia!" When the first person gets back, the next person in line will hop down to Peter to be healed.**
4. You may want to play multiple times and take turns being Peter.

More Conversation— the point of this story

Sometimes we think because we do not have a lot of money we cannot make a real difference in people's lives. But our story today shows us that some things are much more valuable than money. Let's spend some time thinking about the valuable things we can offer the world. Help kids think of different gifts they offer those in need: prayer, a kind smile, being willing to listen, being joyful or funny, inviting someone to church, sharing a story about Jesus, saying "I love you," etc. These are your Alleluias!

These are the things Jesus wants us to do to show others God's love! We don't need money, we need kindness. We need to use our words to be encouraging. We need show love. Peter and John did this in our story today— we can help others too! Alleluia!

Your Beautiful Gate



Can you come up with a way to share God's love
that starts with each of these letters?

A

L

L

E

L

U

I

A

Peter and John give a man more than he asked for... Alleluia!

