



## Family Lesson 74

**Principle:** We are helpless without Jesus.

**Bible Character(s):** Peter, John

**Scripture Reference:** Acts 3:1-10

**1. Worship** - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

Today, we will read about the lame beggar who lived each day desiring something far less than his true need—healing and new life in Christ. We will see how we are helpless beggars who need to be changed by the power of God.

**Last week, we learned about true fellowship and community. What did we learn that the believers in Acts 2 did to display community?** (They gathered together to pray, study God's Word, fellowship together, and share their lives with each other.) **How does this relate to us?** (This was how God created us to be in community with one another, and how the early church began.) **God calls us to live in this way as well. He wants us to be in community with one another so we can learn more about who God is and about the life he has created us to live. What does true fellowship and community do for us?** (It allows us to know God in a deeper, more intimate way.)

Today, we are continuing our study in the book of Acts. We will read about how God uses Peter and John in the lives of other believers by worshiping and serving him.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Acts 3 [NLT].

### Acts 3:1-2

*Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. <sup>2</sup> 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.*

**Have you ever seen someone beg for money?** (Allow responses.) **There are people today who have nothing, and they sit on a street asking for money. They seem helpless because they do not have a place to live, a job, or food to eat. They beg for these things so they can live. There are other ways that people are helpless too. Some people have no friends and are very sad. They might think that they need to have friends to be happy. Let's talk about who might be helpless and a beggar around you.**

**There might be a kid at school who wants some friends, but no one likes them. There might be a friend whose parents are divorced and he or she wishes to be part of what the world considers a "normal" or "typical" family. You might know someone who did not make the baseball team or who lost a big game. Any of these things can make someone feel helpless.**

**We have all had times when we were sad because we did not have something that we thought we needed to be happy. There might have been things that you wished you had, but you could not get them. We can probably all come up with something right now that we think would make us happier if we had it. We are like the beggar, wishing for something of small value when we really need something of much greater**

value. What really makes the beggar in our story, and all of us, helpless? (Allow responses.) He is a sinner, and he needs Jesus.

Let's continue reading and see how Peter and John respond to this beggar.

### Acts 3:3-10

*<sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. <sup>4</sup> Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" <sup>5</sup> The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting a gift. <sup>6</sup> But Peter said, "I don't have any money for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" <sup>7</sup> Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and anklebones were healed and strengthened. <sup>8</sup> He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. <sup>9</sup> All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. <sup>10</sup> When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded!*

What is the beggar asking for? (Allow responses.) The beggar is asking for money. He thinks money is what he needs the most to make his life happy and worth something. Peter and John know that he does not need money. He needs the power of Jesus to change his life. Without Jesus, he is completely helpless. God uses Peter and John to heal this man. Jesus changes his life. We are all like this beggar. We are helpless without Jesus. Jesus offers us something far better than anything this world offers: redemption and new life. How does the beggar respond to Peter and John healing him? (Allow responses.) He gets up and praises God all throughout the Temple. This is how we should respond to the power of God at work. We should worship and praise him. We were created to glorify God. Others can see and be amazed at God's power through our lives when we live to glorify God.

Talk with your child about what beggars think they need (what they are begging for) and what Jesus offers them. (Example: the kid at school who gets picked on all the time begs for others to like him. Jesus offers unconditional love, peace, and joy—no matter how others treat him. The kid who is picked last for a team begs for a sense of importance. Jesus offers worth and identity in himself as he has already chosen each of us through the love shown by the cross. The kid who comes to school in old, ragged clothes because his family is poor begs for a feeling of hope. Jesus offers an eternal hope that overcomes any situation.)

We all have things we think we need in order to be happy. They may be things that make us happy, but they cannot change us or last forever. They cannot give us an everlasting joy and peace. Jesus' death and resurrection provides for us in a way that nothing in this world can do. Without Jesus, we are helpless and hopeless. When we believe and trust in him, he gives us a new life. We will still go through hard things, and suffer in different ways, but these things do not make us helpless because we can trust that God is all that we need. He has given us life, joy, and peace. Only Jesus can give us a hope and a purpose, or reason, for living.

### Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Thank God for providing for us in our helplessness. Ask him to help us see our need for him, and thank him for giving us new life through Jesus.

## Activity

Restore Through Jesus—the purpose of this activity is to see that we are all helpless without Jesus; he restores health and hearts.

### Supplies:

Person outline (found on [GCK Resource Page](#))  
Pictures from a magazine or colored pencils  
Glue

Ask your child to think about some things that you as their parents provide for them, things that they need in order to live. Then, give your child a person outline. Have them cut out pictures from a magazine or simply draw the items that parents give them to survive, the things they are dependent on their parents for. If using a magazine, they can glue the items around the outline of the person. Then have them color the person to look like themselves. After they have finished coloring, have them draw a heart and cross on their person. Remind them that our need for Jesus is something that even our parents cannot help us with.

There are many ways that you depend on your parents. They supply you with food, clothing, and a house to live in. How would you feel if **your parents did not provide for you?** (Allow responses.) **It would be hard! You wouldn't have all of the things you need to live. But as dependent as we are on our parents to help us, there is something that even our parents cannot help us with. It is our need for Jesus. We are all sinners, and the Bible tells us we all deserve to die for our sin. We cannot simply do a lot of good things to take away our sin. There is nothing we can do. We are helpless. But God loves us so much that he gave us Jesus to pay the punishment for our sin. Without Jesus, we are helpless and have no hope. He provides what we cannot provide for ourselves. If we believe that we are sinners, recognize our need for Jesus, and put our faith in Jesus as our Savior, we are saved from our sin and receive new life!**

