



Healing and Praising

(based on Acts 3:1-10)

The temple was an extraordinary building in the city of Jerusalem. Every day many people came to the temple to pray and worship God.

There was one man who went to the temple every day, but he could not go inside like everyone else. This man could not walk. He had been born lame, so his legs didn't work. Every day his family carried him to the temple gate, so he could lie there and beg for money.

One day, Peter and John came to the temple to worship God. When the man saw them coming, he held out his hand and asked for money.

"Please sirs," he begged, "do you have some money to spare? I need the money to live."

Peter and John looked down at the man and felt sorry for him.

"Look at us," Peter said.

The man looked up eagerly. He thought it was his lucky day! He thought he was going to get some money.

"We don't have any money," explained Peter and John. "But we have something much better to give you."

The man was terribly disappointed. What could be better than money?

"In the name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk!" proclaimed Peter. Then he grabbed the man and pulled him to his feet. "What are you doing?" cried the man. "My legs won't hold me up." But suddenly, the man felt his legs become strong. He could stand.

It was incredible! Even though the man had never walked in his whole life, he began to move his legs. At first, he thought he would fall, but he soon found his balance and discovered he could walk.

He was so excited that he started walking and jumping and praising God. He followed Peter and John into the courtyard of the temple. All the people in the temple saw him walking around and singing praises to God.

They knew that he was the same man who begged beside the temple gate.

"What happened to him?" they asked each other in astonishment. "Isn't this the lame beggar? Now he is walking and leaping."

Everyone was astonished by what had happened. They asked other people, "Did you see what happened?" And they exclaimed, "This man was lame, but now he can walk!"



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Using a spoon, or other household objects, to represent each character, retell the story.
- Wonder with your children how it is better to help the person to walk than to give him money to spend that day.



Responding to God's Grace

- If you live or travel in an area with a population of homeless people, assemble “blessing bags.” In a quart zip bag, consider including a pair of socks, gloves, a protein bar, lip balm, a toothbrush and toothpaste, lotion, and other toiletries, an ink pen and paper, a few adhesive bandages. Give this bag to a homeless person.
- When you're shopping for school supplies, buy an extra set for a child who doesn't have anyone to buy their school supplies. Give the supplies to an organization which equips children for school.
- Many people can recover from injuries today because of physical therapy. Do you know someone who has had to go to physical therapy? Ask them what it was like.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Teachers have the job of helping people “walk” through life. Often, they have to buy their supplies. Give a teacher you know a package of post-it notes, antibacterial wipes, or dry erase markers, with your thanks for their hard work.
- You don't have to be unable to walk to benefit from the care of doctors, dentists, nurses, and others. Thank the medical providers in your family's life.

- Pray:

God, thank you for those who help people who are sad, sick, or hurt. We know that the helpers extend your care to others. Amen.