



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 74

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: We are helpless without Jesus.

Bible Character(s): Peter, John

Scripture Reference: Acts 3: 1-10



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Acts 3:1-10. This

passage recounts Peter and John healing the lame beggar. This man had been crippled since birth, and spent each day laying at the Temple gate begging for money. Upon asking Peter and John for money, we see Peter reject his request for money and instead provide something of much greater value: physical healing. Through the name of Jesus, a miracle was performed for a helpless man, who responded by praising God. As you read this passage, think about your own helplessness. We are also beggars who beg for things we do not need. Many times we think we know what we need and we go after it, without even considering that God has something even better for us. We forget that we are helpless without Christ. In what areas of your life are you begging for things that you think will bring you fulfillment? How are you closed off to the power of God, relying on yourself rather than Him? How can you recognize your need for Jesus today? God has so much to give us. We are missing out on what He has for us when we are choosing to not fully grasp His truth

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Getting to Know You

Last week we talked about the importance of the fellowship of believers. Give each camper a worksheet and have them work on the "Getting to Know You" side of the worksheet – pairing up or working together in groups of three (based on class size and dynamics).



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE

by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

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.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What was the crippled man doing? (Begging for food and money; it's all he did every day.) **What did Peter and John do for the man, and why?** (They told the man they had something far better for his life, Jesus, and with the power of the Holy Spirit they healed him; he ran around praising God for healing him.)

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 life 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.² 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 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.

Beggars



The purpose of this activity is to see that we are all beggars.

Supplies:

White board

Ask the campers to think about people they know. Do any seem helpless? There might be a kid at school who no one likes who wants some friends. 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. They might know someone who did not make the baseball team or lost a big game. Any of these things can make someone feel helpless. List these on the whiteboard for kids to reference later on in the lesson.

Tie It Together

 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 it. 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 the Bible to see how Peter and John respond to this beggar.

Acts 3:3-6

³ *When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.*

⁴ *Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, “Look at us!”⁵ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. ⁶ But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!”*

What was the beggar asking for? (Allow responses.) The beggar was asking for money. Why? (Allow responses.) He thought money was what he needed the most to make his life happy and worth something. Do you think he was right? (Allow responses.)

Peter and John knew that he did not need money. What do you think he needed **MORE THAN** money? (Allow responses.) He needed the power of Jesus to change his life. Without Jesus, he was completely helpless. He would remain a beggar, living each day asking for money. How do you think Peter and John responded to him? (Allow responses.) Let's read more scripture to find out.

Acts 3:7

⁷ *Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man’s feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened.*

What did Peter and John do for the beggar? (Allow responses.) God used Peter and John to heal this man, through the power of Jesus' name. Jesus changed the beggar's life. Jesus did something for the beggar that he could not receive anywhere else. He was helpless without Jesus.

How are we like this beggar? (Allow responses.) We are also helpless without Jesus. There are things in this world that we think are what we need to get out of our helplessness. The beggar thought he needed money, but Jesus had something better to give him. Jesus has something better to give us too: new life in Him.

Beggar's Salvation



The purpose of this activity is to see that we are all beggars that are offered exactly what we need in Jesus.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Solution Worksheet” side (1 per camper)

Give each camper a worksheet. Ask them to write down the “beggars” from the list on the dry erase board (from the previous activity.) Have the campers fill in what the 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.)

Tie It Together



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 and last forever. They cannot give us an everlasting joy and peace. Jesus' death and resurrection provides for us in a way that nothing of 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.

Set Free!



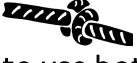
The purpose of this activity is to illustrate the joy the beggar must have felt after God healed him.

Divide your cabin into two teams. Have each team choose a corner of the cabin as a starting line. Each team should designate two helpers to start, and everyone else should sit on the floor in a single-file line. For this game, each child sitting can no longer use one of his legs. (Make sure you're sensitive to

anyone in your group with a disability and modify the game to accommodate that kid's needs.)

To play the game, the two helpers should assist the first person in line to stand up on one foot. They should then help that person walk around the perimeter of the cabin and back to their starting spot. At that point, the person can walk again – they are healed! They should then take the place of one of the helpers and continue the game until everyone on the team has successfully made it around to the finish line.

Tie It Together

 What was it like to depend on someone to help you get around? How did it feel being able to use both legs again? If you'd been that man, how would you have responded to being healed?

Let's read the Bible to see how the beggar reacted to Jesus' gift of life and hope.

Acts 3:8

⁸ He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

How did the beggar respond to being healed? (Allow responses.) He got up and praised God, all throughout the Temple. This is how we should respond when we see the power of God. 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.

Acts 3:9-10

⁹ All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. ¹⁰ When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded!

We were created by God to glorify Him. This man glorified God by praising Him throughout the Temple. Others knew how helpless this beggar had been, and now they saw that God's power had changed his life. They were amazed by the power of God. Our purpose is to glorify God in all we do. Others can see and be amazed at God's power through our lives when we live to glorify God.

Restored Through Jesus



The purpose of this activity is to see that we are all helpless without Jesus; He restores health and hearts.

Supplies:

House cutout (1 per camper)

Roll of double-sided tape (2 per bin)

Give each camper a house cutout. They will create a house representing the shelter their parents provide for them. On each piece of the house they can write out ways they are dependant on their parents, then draw a cross on the "Jesus" square. After they are finished writing, campers can cut out the house and tape it together.

Tie It Together

 There are many ways that you depend on your parents. They supply you with food and 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 none of us are perfect. The Bible tells us we all deserve to die for our sin. We cannot do a lot of good things to take away our sin. There is nothing we can do for ourselves; we are helpless. But God loves us so much that He gave His Son, Jesus, to take the penalty for our sin. He lived a perfect life and was crucified for our sin, so that we could have new life in Him. 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!

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group 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.



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