

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! 11 They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

Peter Preaches in the Temple

12 Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? 13 For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. 14 You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!

16 "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes.

17 "Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. 18 But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that he must suffer these things. 19 Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. 20 Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. Acts 3:12-20 (NLT)

21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets. 22 Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people. Listen carefully to everything he tells you.' 23 Then Moses said, 'Anyone who will not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from God's people.'

24 "Starting with Samuel, every prophet spoke about what is happening today. 25 You are the children of those prophets, and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors. For God said to Abraham, 'Through your descendants all the families on earth will be blessed.' 26 When God raised up his servant, Jesus, he sent him first to you people of Israel, to bless you by turning each of you back from your sinful ways."

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- What kind of things (experiences, things, hobbies, relationships, etc.) seem to give you "the most life/energy"?

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

v.12-20

- O: Read the context of this passage, v.9-11. What has happened up to this point. As v.12 begins, what does the scene look like (where, who, what's going on, what just happened)?
- O: One of the most remarkable features of Peter's second sermon (this passage) is its Christ-centered-ness. Peter directed the crowd's attention away from both the healed cripple as well as himself and John. What are the vital point that Peter made in his sermon to the crowd?
 - Follow-up: According to Peter's message, what had God done to Jesus (v.13-15)?
 - Follow-up: How is the authority of Jesus demonstrated in this miracle (v.16)?
- O: Look at each of the descriptions and titles that Peter gives to Jesus. How do each of these speak to the uniqueness of Jesus?
- O: Peter ends his sermon by challenging his hearers with the necessity of repentance. What blessing would follow if they repented (v.19-26)?
 - Follow-up: have you seen these results in your own life? Discuss.
- I: Discuss the beggar,... what he was originally asking for (v.3), and what did he "get" (v.16)?
 - Follow-up: What healing do you need in your life?
- I: Why is it important for us that the apostles did not need their own power or exceptional godliness to heal the beggar (v.12)?
- A: How do you long to be "refreshed" right now?
 - Follow-up: Based on the scriptures insight on where refreshing comes (repenting, turning to God, bing in God's presence), what could change in your life to see refreshing?
- A: Keith's Sermon had three "applications" to reflect upon,... walk through these as a group, share, pray!
 1. Peter and John pointed people to Jesus instead of themselves... how are you doing in pointing people to Jesus? Where do you struggle in pointing people to you instead of Jesus.
 2. The beggar received healing, what healing do you need in your life? Remember, the beggar was asking for a lot less than he actually received!
 3. What does (could) repentance, turning to God, and being refreshed look like in your life these days?

Recommended Follow-up: Read: Next week's sermon (10/28/2012) will focus on Acts 4.1-22. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, etc.

*As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guides rely heavily on a few other study guides; including: Serendipity NT for Groups by the Young Life ministry (ISBN is N/A), "Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action" by Phyllis LePeau (ISBN 9780830830077), "Acts: Seeing the Spirit Work" by John Stott (ISBN 0851113907), "Acts" by N.T.Wright (ISBN 9780830821853), "Acts" by NavPress (ISBN 0891091122), "Acts" by Blackaby (ISBN 9781418526429), "Acts: The Spread of the Gospel" by John MacArthur (ISBN 9781418508746), "Book of Acts" by Max Lucado (ISBN 0849953006).