

Caring

Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar

SHARING YOUR FAITH

Introduction

How do you share your faith? What is witnessing? Witnessing is one beggar telling another beggar where to find food. This is an old definition, but it illustrates the Bible story that you are going to study.

This story takes place shortly after Jesus ascended to heaven and the Holy Spirit was poured out on the believers on the Day of Pentecost. At the gate to the temple in Jerusalem, a beggar approaches the apostles Peter and John for a handout. Listen to the story. Try to imagine yourself in this situation. Then move into groups of 4 and discuss the questionnaire.

1. Had you been a reporter for *The Jerusalem Herald* and you were to write an article on this event, which of the following headlines would you have been most likely to have given it?
 - "Beggar Gets More Than He Asks For"
 - "Faith Healers Amaze Temple Crowd"
 - "Cripple Walks for First Time in His Life"
 - "Welfare Rolls Reduced by One"
2. How do you feel when you see someone begging on the street?
 - compassionate embarrassed
 - I have really mixed feelings. disgusted
3. If you were Peter, what would you have done when the beggar asked you for money?
 - the same thing Peter did
 - quickly walked by
 - asked John for a dime

PETER HEALS THE CRIPPLED BEGGAR

3 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ²Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled

with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

¹¹While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹²When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see."

Acts 3:1-16



4. When you have reached out to Jesus in the past, what motivated you to do so?
- fear—of the judgment day
 - guilt—my conscience
 - heritage—the faith of my family
 - despair—I was burned out.
 - logic—I was convinced.
 - other: _____
5. Peter and John shared what they had with this beggar. What do you have that you can share with others?
- maybe my lunch—that's about it
 - my ability to listen to their problems
 - my empathy with people who are hurting
 - my knowledge of the Bible
 - my faith in God and how it has helped me
 - my smiles and hugs
 - other: _____

6. Who do you admire, particularly in your school or workplace, for the way they share their faith?
7. If someone asked you, "Why do you go to church?" how would you answer?
8. What have you found to be the best way for you to share your faith?
- just being a friend
 - giving the facts of the Gospel
 - telling my own story of how I met Jesus
 - living my life as a good example
 - inviting a person to go to church or another event
 - other: _____
9. What is your favorite excuse for *not* sharing the Good News of Christ?
- claiming I don't know enough
 - saying I don't have time
 - being too concerned with my own life
 - thinking others can do it
 - just ignoring it
 - other: _____
10. Who is someone that you would like to share the Good News of Christ with?
11. What area of your life is "crippled" and in need of Christ's healing?