

Dundonald Youth: Acts

Week 3: In the name of Jesus!

Open in prayer: Ask God to be with you, speaking to you through his word, helping you to trust Jesus Christ.

DO THIS STUDY FIRST - then listen to Pete TG talk

RECAP Week 1 & 2: The book of Acts is about the Spirit empowered *witnesses* of Jesus' resurrection, proclaiming that Jesus is Lord & Christ, and that death couldn't hold him (just as the Old Testament promised)! The finish line (the Day of The Lord = the Return of Jesus) is in sight (one day...) & the Apostles are running the 1st leg of the relay race that will include all future generations (now including us!) who will carry the baton & proclaim the gospel.

The Apostles have a unique 1st leg to run - laying the foundations of the truth of the gospel: that Jesus IS alive, and IS Lord & Saviour, and that forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit is for *everyone, everywhere*.

Read Acts 3:1-5.

Where does this take place? **The temple (v1) - not because 'the temple' is the special place of the presence of God (that's Jesus!) but just cos that's their meeting place - a bit like us meeting at Church for our prayer meeting!**

When? **3pm**

Who are the key characters? **Peter (and John, and though he's more of a witness than active character) and the beggar.**

Draw a picture to capture the scene at the end of v5.

Read Acts 3:6-7.

What doesn't Peter have? **Cash Money**

What does Peter have? **What do you think 'in the name of Jesus' means? Peter has power and authority to heal - but it's not his own power or authority, it's Jesus'! 'In the name of Jesus' = by HIS power and HIS authority and according to HIS will and HIS character...**

Which is better? (What the beggar asked for, or what he received?) **Gold and silver might be good for a period of time, but it soon runs out and all the same problems remain. As we'll discover it's not *only* a supernatural physical healing - the beggar's reaction makes it clear that his *whole person* has been healed - so the physical miracle points beyond itself to a bigger reality! A much more wonderful solution to a much deeper, longer lasting problem!**

Read Acts 3:8-10.

How does the lame beggar react? **Walking, jumping, praising God!! He joins the disciples IN the temple courts.**

How do the people react? **'Wonder' and 'amazement'! They recognise the man, they can see the change, they wonder what the explanation is!**

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Why do you think this event happened / why did Luke record it? *What do you think??*

Have you got any questions from this passage? *You might well! It's pretty hectic stuff!*

NOW LISTEN TO THE TALK - Youth Bible Series: Acts 3

Think again about this question: Why do you think this event happened / why did Luke record it? What would you say now? How do you feel after looking at this passage? *It seems that this event happened to demonstrate the power and authority of Jesus, to show that he is alive and active, to give a foretaste of the blessing of salvation, to show Jesus' compassion, to authenticate his witnesses and their message, the list goes on! Personally I feel super encouraged to see Jesus at work like this! To read the historical, reliable account of what happened, and the explanation of why. I feel encouraged to trust Jesus, to turn to him, to repent of sin and put my faith in him, and to look forward to the New Creation!*

What do Christians have to offer the world? Gold? Silver...? *Probably not! And that's not what people most need - they need Jesus! And we know him! We can explain to them who he is, and what his Kingdom is like, and how to be part of it! We don't have power and authority, we aren't the solution to people's problems, especially not their deepest, and most painful ones... but Jesus is! He will restore everything! People can be forgiven! And refreshed!*

Pray: Praise God for Jesus, risen and ruling, and that we would follow him as Lord & Saviour.

Listen/Sing: What a Beautiful Name - Hillsong (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QLAH3L4>)

Meditate: Acts 3:15