

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Imagine standing at the edge of your school's playground when you see a group of friends gathering. You're excited to join them, but what if you're suddenly asked to do something amazing, something that will completely transform the day into an unforgettable experience? In Acts 3, Peter and John are heading to the temple when they encounter a man who has been unable to walk from birth. What happens next is not only a miracle but also an inspirational story that reveals the power of faith and the impact of taking action when the opportunity arises.

Main Teaching Points

Firstly, let's focus on the setting. Peter and John are going to the temple at 3 PM for prayer, a daily routine for many Jews of that time. However, their day is about to change drastically. Sometimes, we may think of our routines as tedious, but remember, God can use ordinary moments for extraordinary purposes if we remain open-hearted.

Secondly, consider the man they encounter. Unable to walk since birth, he is often carried to the temple gate to beg for alms. His request for money might seem minimal, but Peter responds in a way the man never expected. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, says, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Imagine someone telling you to fly; it would seem equally impossible! Yet, by faith and the authority of Jesus' name, the man stands and walks.

Lastly, note the reactions of the people. The man's healing amazes those who witness it, drawing attention to God's power. Peter uses this opportunity to speak about Jesus and repentance. Miracles in our lives, big or small, are opportunities to give credit to God and share our faith.

Personal Application for Junior High Devotional Students

As junior high students, you might wonder how these events relate to you. Think about your daily interactions. You have the ability to offer more than just kindness. Just like Peter and John, you carry the message and love of Jesus in your actions and words. While you may not perform physical miracles, your encouragement, prayers, and truthful living can deeply impact those around you, making your everyday interactions significant opportunities to reflect God's love.

Interactive Discussion Questions

To make this lesson come alive, consider these questions. First, what are some "ordinary" moments in your day where you could let God work through you? Encourage students to share examples from their own lives where they have seen small acts of kindness grow into something significant.

Next, how can your faith help you to see beyond the surface needs of others, just like Peter and John did? Encourage students to brainstorm ways they might discern deeper needs or spiritual opportunities with their friends or family.

Finally, think about what witnessing a miracle or a significant act of faith might do for someone's belief in God. Discuss how sharing the impact of God's work in your life can encourage someone

else to explore their faith more deeply. Guide students in considering how their personal experiences can serve as powerful testimonies of God's love and presence in the world.