

Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello, everyone! Today, we're diving into a fascinating story from the Book of Acts in the Bible. Have you ever needed help with something you couldn't do by yourself? Maybe you needed someone to lift you up to reach that cookie jar on a shelf. Think about how amazing it felt when someone came along and made all the difference for you. Well, our story today is about two of Jesus' friends, Peter and John, who did something incredible for a man in need. They showed what it means to help someone in a way that changes their life forever. This story takes place at a special place called the temple, where people gathered to pray and talk to God. As you listen, think about how Peter and John show us the power of kindness, faith, and the incredible things Jesus can do through us, even when we're just one or two people!

Main Teaching Points

Point 1: The Encounter at the Temple Gate

Our story begins near a gate called Beautiful, where a man who couldn't walk sat every day. He relied on others to move and had to ask people for money so he could buy food and survive. Imagine having to ask for help just to get through the day! One day, as Peter and John were going to the temple, this man saw them and asked for money. Just like you might ask for help with homework, this man hoped they could spare a little change for him. But what Peter and John did next was far more powerful. Instead of just giving money, Peter said, "Look at us!" The man looked up, expecting to receive something.

Point 2: The Miracle

What happened next was a miracle! Peter told the man that he didn't have silver or gold, but he would give the man what he had – the power of Jesus Christ. He said, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Can you imagine the surprise the man felt? Peter reached out, took his hand, and helped him stand up. Suddenly, the man's feet and ankles became strong. For the first time ever, he leapt up and began to walk! He was so excited that he began praising God right there. People who saw this were amazed because they recognized him as the same man who used to sit and beg by the gate. This man went from sitting on the ground to walking and jumping for joy all because of a simple act of faith and kindness.

Point 3: The Crowd's Reaction

As you can imagine, this created quite a stir! Everyone came running to see what had happened. They couldn't believe their eyes. Around the courtyard called Solomon's Colonnade, a crowd gathered, everyone curious and eager to understand. Peter saw this as an opportunity to explain what had taken place. He told the people that it wasn't through his own power or godliness that the man was healed. Instead, it was faith in Jesus that had made the man well. This sign wasn't just to help one person, but it pointed everyone to the power and love of Jesus Christ. Peter used this miracle to teach others about Jesus and what He can do in your life if you believe in Him.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we've heard the story, let's think about what it means for you. Just like Peter and John,

you can make a difference in the lives of others. You may be small or young, but your actions can have a big impact. Think of simple ways you can help others. Maybe you can share your toys or help a friend with schoolwork. Remember, it's not about what you have but what you can do with what God has given you. Just as Peter said that he didn't have silver or gold, he had something far more valuable – faith and kindness. You also have the ability to show love and care. Jesus works through those who trust Him, so believe that you can do wonderful things by helping others, even if it's just lending a hand to someone who needs it. Remember, using what you have to help others is one of the most powerful things you can do, and it makes God really happy!

Interactive Discussion Questions

1. What were Peter and John doing when they met the man at the temple gate?

Guide the students to understand that Peter and John were heading to the temple to pray. This shows how everyday acts, like going to pray, can turn into special moments of kindness and miracles.

2. How did Peter and John help the man, and why was this so amazing?

Encourage them to think about the miracle. Peter didn't give money; instead, he offered healing. This illustrates faith in action and that true help often goes beyond what money can buy.

3. How can we help others in our lives like Peter and John did?

Prompt them to come up with simple examples such as sharing snacks, lending a book, or helping someone who's hurt. Encourage students to think creatively about how they can help others, reinforcing the lesson that even small gestures can be significant.

As we talked about today, simple acts of kindness and faith can have a lasting impact on those around us. Just like Peter and John were able to help the man walk, you can help others stand up in different ways too. Be ready to be kind and watch what wonderful things can happen through your actions!