

Scripture_background

Background Notes for Acts 3

Historical Context:

- Time and Setting: The events of Acts 3 occur shortly after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. The early Christians were in Jerusalem, sharing their faith and performing miracles.
- Temple in Jerusalem: The temple was a central place for worship and community life for the Jewish people. Peter and John visit the temple because it is customary for prayer and connection with others.

Cultural Context:

- Jewish Customs: Peter and John, along with many other early Christians, were Jewish and continued to follow Jewish practices, including visiting the temple at specific times for prayer.
- Almsgiving and Support for the Needy: It was a common practice in Jewish culture to give money to those in need, often seen at entrances to the temple where many gathered.

Theological Insights:

- Miracle of Healing: Peter heals a man who was unable to walk since birth. This miracle shows God's power and serves as a testament to Jesus' continued work through His apostles.
- Faith in Jesus: Peter emphasizes that it is through faith in Jesus that the man is healed, highlighting the importance of belief and trust in Jesus' name.
- Message of Repentance: Peter uses the opportunity to preach to the crowd, teaching them about Jesus' death and resurrection and urging them to repent and turn to God.

Key Points for Teaching Preparation:

- God's Love and Power: Highlight the compassion and kindness shown through the healing, demonstrating God's love and power to change lives.
- Importance of Prayer and Evangelism: Discuss with students the significance of prayer and sharing the message of Jesus with others.
- Being Witnesses: Encourage students to think about how they can be witnesses of Jesus' love and power in their own lives.

When teaching, focus on making connections to the students' current environment, such as the importance of helping others and believing in something greater than themselves.