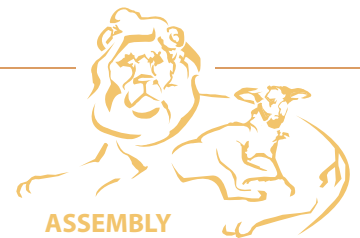


THE LAME BEGGAR WALKS!

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 3



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

SILVER AND GOLD OR SALVATION

Supplies

- rolls of new pennies and quarters
- small money pouch to hold the coins
- clear glass bowl or jar
- Bible

Before reading the lesson for today, tell the children that you have something to show them. Jingle the coins in the bag and ask them if they can guess what is making the sound. After hearing their guesses, take the bag of coins and dramatically drop the coins into the glass jar. Entice the children with the coins. Then tell them although they are made of copper and other less expensive metals to imagine if they were silver and gold. Ask them to think how much gold and silver coins would be worth. Invite the children to put their hands into the bowl to touch the coins. Ask them what they would buy with the coins.

Finally, place the coins on the table and ask them to tell you what the most valuable item is in the room. (The answer is the Word of God, so make sure you have your Bible out where they can see it but don't make it too obvious.)

After a few guesses, tell them the correct answer and then read the story. The children should be primed to recognize the silver and gold line. Explain to them that the truth of God's Word and His plan of salvation is the most valuable item in the world and at the same time it is free for the taking!! The lame man paid nothing for his healing!!

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SING THE SONG

Sing the song "Silver and Gold Have I None." (Song is available on the "Wee Sing Bible Songs" Early Bird Recordings, Newberg, Oregon.)

LOOKING BACK TO ISAIAH

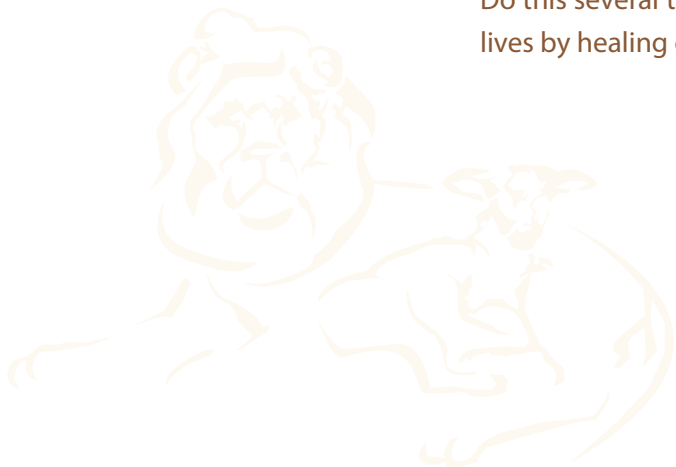
Read Isaiah 35:4-6 to the children. Tell the children that hundreds of years before it happened, Isaiah was proclaiming a day when Jesus would come. When Jesus came the eyes of the blind were opened, the ears of the deaf were unstopped, lame men leaped like deer, and the tongues of the mute (speechless) sang for joy. Explain to them that Jesus, the all-powerful King, told His disciples to do the same things that He did. So, Peter and John were following Jesus in asking the lame man to walk.

ACT OUT THE LESSON

Play a game with the children. Divide them into four groups. The first group is the blind group, they should cover their eyes. The second group is the deaf group who should cover their ears. The third group is the lame group who should sit on the floor. The fourth group is the mute group who should cover their mouths. Say the words, "Behold your God shall come" from verse 4 and then read verses 5 and 6.

When you get to the part which describes the healing of a particular group they should remove their hands from their eyes, ears, or mouth or leap up like a deer and have each group shout "Behold my God has come! His name is Jesus!"

Do this several times to reinforce that Jesus is the one who came to touch our lives by healing our bodies and by healing our souls as well.



THE LAME BEGGAR WALKS!

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HOLD UP A DOLLAR

Supplies

a dollar bill

Hold up a dollar to show your class. Ask them the following questions to help them understand that money is temporary, it gets used up.

- What you could buy with a dollar? (Examples: a hot dog, two chocolate bars, a can of soda.)
- What happens to the dollar after it is spent? (You don't have it anymore).

Then remind them of the story of a crippled beggar who was healed and could walk again.

- How long he would get to use his leg? (He would get to use it his whole life.)
- If he used it to walk to the well for a drink would it fall off? (No.)
- If he woke up the next morning after using it all day would it still be there? (Yes.)

Now you can see how valuable a gift the disciples gave the man. If the disciples had only given him money it would have eventually been used up. The most valuable gift is one that lasts. The only thing that will last forever is a heart changed to worship God. One day we will die and lose our bodies. The Bible tells us we will get new bodies in heaven but our hearts, our souls, will be changed to worship God will be with us forever!

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" were the words that Peter spoke to the beggar. Then while the man clung to Peter and John while standing on his newly healed legs, Peter addressed the people. His message was the Gospel! Jesus is called the Holy and Righteous One and the Author of Life. He is the one foretold by the prophets who would suffer. Jesus did suffer. He died on the cross for their sins, for our sins. The result of Peter's Gospel message is that many of those who heard his message believed (Acts 4:4).