

# TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

## CELEBRATE GOD SERIES

WORSHIP IS A CELEBRATION — LESSON 3 (ACTS 3:1-10)

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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#### Bible Verse

“Then Peter took him by the right hand and helped him up. At once the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. He went with Peter and John into the temple courtyards. He walked and jumped and praised God.” *Acts 3:7-8 (NIRV)*

#### Lesson Objectives

1. We celebrate because of God’s saving grace.
2. We celebrate because of where we were yesterday.
3. We celebrate because of where we are today.
4. We celebrate because of where we will be tomorrow.

#### Teaching Aids

“Worship is a Celebration” Power Point presentation



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## **TEACHER'S GUIDE CONTINUED**

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### **Background Information**

After the day of Pentecost when the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit, the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of the bread and prayers. Many signs and wonders were being done through the apostles. Daily they attended the temple, ate meals and praised God together as a community.

One day as Peter and John were going up to the temple, they encountered a man who had been lame since birth. The lame man was carried to the temple everyday by his friends and family so he could beg for money as people entered the temple. The man was calling out to the crowds entering the temple. Peter and John got the man's attention so that he looked at them. The man expected to receive money from them. Peter and John did not have money to give the man. They had something much better than money. They had the healing power of Jesus flowing through them.

Peter commanded the man in the name of Jesus to get up and walk. Peter took him by the hand and immediately the man could walk. The man entered the temple with them, leaping and praising God. All the people recognized him because he had been at the gate everyday begging for many years. The people were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to the man.

### **I. Introduction to the Bible Lesson**

#### **A. What are times that we celebrate?**

1. We celebrate our birthdays, anniversaries and other important days. We throw parties, take pictures, give flowers and gifts, we eat special cake, and go to special restaurants. These special times remind us of the past and bond us together for the future.

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## **I. Introduction to the Bible Lesson continued**

2. We have national celebrations. We celebrate holidays like Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Again, these celebration days are marked by time away from work, leisure, laughter and play. We picnic, parade, barbecue and shoot off fireworks. We spend time with family and friends. Such celebrations lift us from the routine of our lives.
3. Have you ever thought about worship being a celebration? Every time we worship, we can celebrate:
  - a) God's faithfulness for saving us from our past.
  - b) God's love and compassion for where we are today.
  - c) God's promise for eternity and the gift of His Son Jesus to be our Savior.
4. Let's take a look at the story of the lame beggar who was healed.

## **II. The Lame Beggar is Healed (Acts 3)**

### **A. The Lame Man's Disability (vs. 1-2)**

1. "Peter and John went up together to the temple."
2. The phrase "went up" suggests that they went to the temple frequently.
  - a) In this particular situation, it was "at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour."
  - b) This would be 3:00 p.m.
  - c) It was the "hour of prayer."
3. The Jewish people had three special prayer hours at the temple;  
*"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice." (Psalm 55:17)*

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## **II. The Lame Beggar is Healed (Acts 3) continued**

4. They prayed at nine, noon and three.
5. This hour was called "evening prayer."
6. There at the temple was a man "lame from his mother's womb."
  - a) He had not been crippled in an accident.
  - b) He had not had a debilitating injury or illness.
  - c) He simply had never walked.
  - d) Acts 4:22 tells us he was over forty years old.
  - e) Further, there was no cure or hope for him.
7. He had to be "carried."
  - a) He had never been capable of supporting his own weight.
  - b) Evidently there were friends or family members who cared enough about him to move him about.
  - c) With their help he was "laid daily at the gate of the temple."
8. His practice was to ask alms from those who entered the temple.
  - a) "Alms" were gifts given to the poor.
  - b) To the Jewish mind, giving of alms was seen as an opportunity to win favor with God.
  - c) The man's only income came from begging.
9. The lame beggar had a strategic post at "the gate...which is called Beautiful."
  - a) Beggars favored three spots: near the houses of the rich, near main highways or city gates, or at the temple gates.
  - b) The temple was probably the best site because it guaranteed heavy traffic and the worshipers were likely to try and impress God with their generosity.

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## II. The Lame Beggar is Healed (Acts 3) continued

### B. The Lame Man's Healing (vs. 3-7)

1. Lying there at the gate, the lame man saw "Peter and John about to go into the temple."
  - a) He called out to them and "asked for alms."
  - b) The beggars were not shy. Their livelihood rested on their ability to attract attention.
  - c) Imagine him calling out specifically to Peter and John saying, "Sirs, you look like such godly men. Surely you want to help a poor lame person like me. I need to eat."
2. The Bible says Peter fastened his eyes upon him.
  - a) This means Peter and John looked intently into the man's face.
  - b) Many others had no doubt heard his cries but turned away and wouldn't look at him.
  - c) But Peter and John fixed their eyes upon him.
  - d) It may have been the first time anyone had looked him eye to eye.
3. Peter said, "Look on us."
  - a) Peter wanted to see his eyes.
  - b) The lame man was expecting to receive something, probably money. *"Peter said, 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.'" (Acts 3:6)*
4. Peter and John were representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Verse 7 says Peter "took him (the lame man) by the right hand and lifted him up."

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## **II. The Lame Beggar is Healed (Acts 3) continued**

- a) Peter commanded the beggar to walk, but he didn't wait on him to try to get up; he reached out and took his right hand.
- b) God's power flowed through Peter "immediately", or instantly.
- c) Immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

### **C. The Lame Man's Worship (vs. 8)**

1. As strength came into his joints, he "leaped up stood and walked."
  - a) Although the lame man had never walked, he was on his feet; though he had never taken a step he received balance and coordination.
  - b) What joy! He had expected a handout, not a healing! He expected money, not a miracle!
2. He "entered the temple with them."
  - a) All the way he was "walking, leaping and praising God."
  - b) He couldn't just walk; his joy at being healed would not allow that.
  - c) He leaped and danced about all the while giving the praise to the Lord.
  - d) Can't you hear him? "I can walk! I can run! I can jump! Praise God! Thank You, Jesus!"
3. Imagine if Peter had said, "Hey buddy, settle down. You are not acting very dignified. We are Christians."
  - a) Impossible. He could never hold it in!

### **D. The Lame Man's Witness (vs. 9-10)**

1. What happened when this man began his celebration of praise to God? Verse 9 says, "All the people saw him..."

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## **II. The Lame Beggar is Healed (Acts 3) continued**

2. Let's face it. We are concerned with what people see and hear.
  - a) We are concerned about what others might think if we were to be so moved that we shouted, "Glory!"
  - b) We are concerned with what others might wonder if they saw us raise our hands or clap our hands in praise of God.
3. The healed man didn't care what anyone thought.
  - a) His experience with God's grace was so fresh he was consumed with worship, not with worrying about the opinions of others.
  - b) When we have a fresh relationship with the Lord, we don't worry so much what others see or think.
4. What did the people think when they saw him?
  - a) Verse 10 says they recognized him.
  - b) They "knew it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate."
  - c) How did they respond? "They were filled with wonder and amazement."
  - d) Worship is directly related to witnessing.

## **III. Reasons to Celebrate with Worship**

1. Why do we come here and sing these songs?
2. Why do we pray these prayers?
3. Why do we do the things we do when we gather together?
4. We do these things for the same reason the lame man leaped, jumped and praised God after his healing. We celebrate in worship because of what God has done, what He is doing, and what He will do.

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### **III. Reasons to Celebrate with Worship continued**

#### **A. We celebrate because of where we were yesterday.**

1. The lame man was in a desperate condition before he encountered God's grace.
  - a) Think of what life was like for him.
  - b) He never walked. He never ran.
  - c) He was confined to one place and was dependent on others.
  - d) It must have been a miserable existence.
  - e) His worship was the result of being set free from that life.
2. We were also in a desperate condition before we encountered God's grace.
  - a) We were spiritually dead.
  - b) Where we were yesterday before we were saved was a bad place.
  - c) It was a place of slavery to sin, a place of judgment and condemnation, a place of despair, hopelessness and death.
  - d) If Jesus had not stepped into our lives, we would be destined for an eternity in hell. *"He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves."* (Colossians 1:13, NIRV)
  - e) We should be eternally thankful for God's grace in our lives.

#### **B. We celebrate because of where we are today.**

1. Where we are today is not perfection.
  - a) We have not made it.

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### **III. Reasons to Celebrate with Worship continued**

b) God is still working on the sin in our lives. *"I have not yet received all these things. I have not yet reached my goal. Christ Jesus took hold of me so that I could reach that goal. So I keep pushing myself forward to reach it."* (Philippians 3:12, NIRV)

2. We are so blessed to be where are.

- a) We are part of God's family.
- b) We have a loving local church.
- c) We have His Holy Spirit within us.
- d) We have His Word before us.
- e) We have His people around us.
- f) No matter what happens, we are richly blessed.

#### **C. We celebrate because of where we will be tomorrow.**

1. Being a Christian is not just about the here and now, it is also about eternity. *"There are many rooms in my Father's house. If this were not true, would I have told you that I am going there? Would I have told you that I would prepare a place for you there? If I go and do that, I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am."* (John 14:2-3, NIRV)

2. Ours is an eternity of joy in God's presence.

### **IV. Conclusion**

**A. Do we have cause to celebrate in worship? Think about our yesterday, today, and tomorrow.**

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## **IV. Conclusion continued**

**B. Is there a reason for us not to celebrate and worship Him? If so, perhaps we need to invite Jesus into our hearts. Or, if we are a Christian perhaps we need to draw closer to Him?**

**C. Whatever the need, we should spend time with the Lord. Let's make it right!**

### **Closing Prayer**

**God, thank You for rescuing us and creating a wonderful place for us to live with You in eternity. We celebrate You today and every day! Open our eyes and our hearts to the blessings You so freely give us. Help us to share that Good News with others. Amen.**

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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### **1. Who were Peter and John?**

- They were disciples of Jesus. Men who spent a lot of time with Jesus learning His ways.

### **2. Who did Peter and John see at the temple gate?**

- Peter and John saw a lame man begging for money.

### **3. What does it mean to be lame?**

- To be lame means you cannot walk.

### **4. How did the lame man get to the gate everyday if he couldn't walk?**

- His friends or his family had to carry him to the gate.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

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### 5. What did Peter and John do when they saw the lame man?

- Peter and John looked him in the eye and healed the man so he could walk.

### 6. How did Peter and John heal the lame man?

- Peter and John healed the lame man through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### 7. What did the man do once he was healed?

- The man was walking, leaping, dancing and praising God for what He had done.

### 8. What did the people in the temple do when they saw the lame man walking?

- They recognized the man and were filled with wonder and amazement.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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### 1. How can you dance and praise God in your life?

### 2. Do you worship God without fear of what others may think?

### 3. Do you have reason to celebrate and worship God?

- If not, perhaps we need to invite Jesus into our hearts. Or, if we are a Christian perhaps we need to draw into a closer relationship with Him.