



ACTS 3

THE CRIPPLED BEGGAR

Scripture: Acts 3

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Main Takeaway: God used Peter and John to heal a crippled beggar.

Supplies: Dollar Store tablecloths (3 of the same color), duct tape, construction paper, scissors, Dollar Store basket, clear tape, permanent markers.

Ask:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (The birthday of the church).

Does anyone remember what that day was called? (Pentecost).

Who can tell me what happened? (The Holy Spirit was poured out on the believers and Peter preached the good news. Everyone heard them speaking in their own languages).

Today, we're going to see what happens when the believers are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Read: Acts 3:1-10

Explain:

Peter and John are heading to prayer. The Jews often prayed 3 times a day (at 9, 12, and 3), and they saw a man lame from birth. He had never walked, and his friends carried him so he could beg for money. Put yourself in his place. How would you feel if you had never been able to walk and do the things that others could do? What would your life be like if every day you had to sit and beg, just to get enough money to eat because you could never work because you couldn't walk. Later in the story, we find out this man was over 40 years old.

Do you understand why he was jumping and leaping and praising God? For 40 years he probably longed to walk and jump and run. For 40 years, he laid and begged all day. But then Peter told him to get up.

Act it Out

Before the lesson, create a dancing tube-man costume like the kind used at stores for advertisements. The instructions will be attached. Have the kids reenact the story but have one of the teachers or students dress up as the tube-man. This will be our beggar. Once Peter has the man stand up, the student/teacher that is the beggar, can stand and dance like the man in the story did, but have them do it like a tube-man so the kids can remember the story whenever they see a tube-man.

Explain:

I know this was a really silly way to tell this story. But I want you to be able to remember this story whenever you see a blow-up tube man. I hope that you can look at those silly things and think of the incredible miracle Peter did through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within him. Think about how excited this man was! He had never walked and suddenly he could. He had a lot to praise God about. But guess what? We do too! You may not experience the miracle of suddenly walking, but God has done so much for each of us. Who can think of something they are thankful to God for? (Allow for answers).

Let's make sure that we always remember that we too should be walking and leaping and praising God. He has done incredible things for us. There will be days when it will be harder to thank God. Maybe you're sad or struggling with something. But those are the most important days to remember what he has done for you and to hang on to hope and trust in him.

Do a Craft:

In order to remember our story and to be thankful in everything, we're going to create finger-puppet tube-men. (Instructions on the following page).

Allow the kids to make the craft and talk about more they are thankful for. Optional: If you have access to the song, play the kids song while they work:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymUnSwFyFzM&list=RDymUnSwFyFzM&start_radio=1)

[v=ymUnSwFyFzM&list=RDymUnSwFyFzM&start_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymUnSwFyFzM&list=RDymUnSwFyFzM&start_radio=1)

Memorize Acts 3:6-8

Close in Prayer

Tube-Man Instructions:

Take a plastic tablecloth and fold it in half the long way. Overlap the ends and place a line of duct tape down the seam. Flip it inside out so the duct tape doesn't show, then set it aside.

Now create the arms. Measure out a rectangle that will fit an adult's arm. Do the same thing you did with the body: overlap the ends and tape a seam down the middle, then turn it inside out so the seam isn't showing.

Cut the bottom out of a laundry basket. This will keep the tube-man's head stable by resting on the wearer's shoulders. Line the basket with duct tape and carefully insert it into the tube-man's head. Leave enough space for the top to wave, then press the tape to the sides, ensuring it sticks.

Holding the head up to the wearer, roughly measure where the arms should go. Once done, cut out arm holes and duct tape them together from the inside.

Finally, cut out holes for eyes and draw on a mouth.

To put the tube man on, scrunch up the tablecloth, put your arms in, then slide the body portion over you. You are a tube-man!

For video instructions, I used this video to help me make it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wx3KAKblwOI>

Finger Puppet Instructions:

Have squares and rectangles pre-cut from the tablecloth for the kids.

1. Roll a square into a cylinder and tape the seam.
2. Cut holes in the sides for the arms.
3. Take a long, skinny rectangle, roll it into a cylinder and tape the seam. This is both arms.
4. Slide the skinny cylinder through the holes in the body.
5. Draw on a face.
6. Use your dancing tube-man finger puppet!

