



TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for June 12 – June 18, 2022

WEEKLY READINGS: Acts 3;

ACTS IN 30 Week 3: *The Lame Rise Up and Walk*

As Thomas Walker comments, 'the power was Christ's, but the hand was Peters'. It was not a gesture of unbelief, but of love. Then *instantly*, Dr. Luke continues, *the man's feet and ankles became strong* (7b)—so strong and agile that *he jumped to his feet and began to walk*, which he had never done before. Not only so, but he now accompanied the apostles *into the temple courts, all the time walking and jumping, and praising God* (8). It was an outstanding fulfilment of the Messianic prophecy: *'Then will the lame leap like a deer'* (Isaiah 35:6) -John Stott, *The Message of Acts: The Spirit, the Church & the World*

FOCUS: READ Acts 3:1-10

The Lame Man Rises Up and Receives Healing

But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" (Acts 3:6, ESV)

BIG IDEA 1 – This is the very first healing miracle recorded in Acts after the Church was established on the Day of Pentecost. Peter is careful to make sure everyone knows that this miracle is done by Jesus and that God merely used him to be the conduit. The man was lame from birth which gives meaning to the seemingly **irreversible condition** that this man had suffered for 40 YEARS. This man was begging – looking for a **hand out** just to make it through another day. But Peter – under the unction of the Holy Spirit and in the authority of Jesus' name – boldly reached out to him. Peter gave this man a **hand up** and watched God miraculously **reverse the curse** that this man suffered under his whole life in front of many witnesses.

Q1- What can we learn from how Peter clarified that this miracle was done by Jesus and not by he and John? (Acts 3:12-15)

FOCUS: Isaiah 35:1-8

The Curse is in Reverse

"Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." (Isaiah 35:3-4)

BIG IDEA 2 – Although Isaiah was a prophet who lived nearly 700 years before Christ was born, he prophesied many things that would take place once the Messiah came. This chapter describes how the Messiah would be coming one day to reverse the curse that God's people had been suffering under. When John the Baptist asked his disciples to ask Jesus if He really was the Messiah, Jesus quotes from this chapter (see Luke 7:22). After Jesus' ascension into Heaven, He released the power and authority that He walked in to the believers that followed Him who would also do *"even greater things"* through His name than He did when He walked the earth (John 14:12). Peter and the lame man is one of many examples of this in Acts.

Q2- We can see in the Book of Acts and in Jesus' lifetime how God "reversed the curse" as many were healed, delivered, and set free. What does this look like today? Do you believe that the Lord is still doing signs and wonders like this today?

FOCUS: Acts 3:17-21

Repentance is the Key to Receiving "Times of Refreshing" from God's Holy Presence

"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19-20)

BIG IDEA 3 – Peter is quick to realize after the lame man's healing that a large crowd of people came together in amazement of the miracle. He took the opportunity to preach the Good News of the Gospel that Jesus was the Messiah and that the people needed to repent for not believing in Him. Peter states that as people **"repent"** – which literally means to **go in the complete opposite direction** in your thoughts and actions – that they will experience a **renewal** in their hearts from God's Holy Presence. Although repenting from sin may be hard to do at first, God's word promises it brings times of refreshment!

Q3- Why is it sometimes so hard for us to repent when we sin? How has God brought a sense of refreshing or renewal into your life once you repented from something before?
