

In Jesus' Name by Tony Doehrmann

KEY VERSE:

Acts 3:6

But 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."

FAITH STORY:

Acts 3:1-10

FAITH FOCUS:

A lame man begs Peter and John for a handout. This provides an opportunity for the man to receive more than he could have imagined. The story reveals how the name of Jesus is related to healing power. We will learn that a man who had to be carried to the Temple is "walking, leaping, and praising God" in the sight of all who are gathered there. But the power of Jesus' name impacts more than just the lame man; "all the people were filled with wonder and amazement".

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- 1 Bibles
- 2 Paper / Pencils
- 3 Word match activity—copies for each student
- 4 Name Tags
- 5 Book of names and their meanings (it should contain the names of your students)
- 6 Note cards
- 7 White Board with Dry Erase Markers
- 8 Invite one or more persons to come talk to your class about personal experiences with healing from Jesus.

FOCUS:

Greet the students and as they settle in, ask:

“How many of you know what your names mean? Did your parents ever tell you why you were given the name you have?”

Have them look up their names in the books of names and definitions.

Ask: *“Does your name describe you?”*

Hand out word match papers containing several names from the Bible and their meanings.

Allow 2-3 minutes and then ask them about their findings.

After they have responded share the correct answers to the word match.

CONNECT:

Ask students to consider these questions quietly for a moment and then ask for their responses:

“If you could choose your name today, what would it be and why?”

“What would you want your name to mean—what should it say about you?”

TRANSITION STATEMENT:

“In the ancient world, a name was more than just a label. It referred to the personality of the person—their innermost being. Names were so important in Hebrew thought that if someone or something did not have a name, it did not exist. Names were also thought to possess power that caused people to act in certain ways. If your name was Nabal, people assumed you would act foolishly. Names could even predict a person’s destiny. Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua. Both of these names mean Savior.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE:

Ask a student to read Acts 3:1-10 aloud for everyone.

Have the class break into smaller groups to study the text. Distribute pencils and paper to each group, list the questions below on the white board, and have them choose someone in each group to record their answers.

- 1 Who are the characters in the passage?
- 2 What are they doing?

- 3 Are there any surprises?
- 4 Who is surprised and why?
- 5 What surprised you in the story?

Allow about 7-12 minutes for the small group discussion and gather everyone back together into the larger group. Have them share the answers they have discovered with the larger group.

Listen for these points and fill in with summary comments as needed:

- 1 Peter and John go to the Temple and their path to prayer leads them to a lame man whom we are told has been this way all his life. There are many other people that have come to pray at the Temple as well. It may be some of these people that carried the man in that morning.
- 2 The man is begging at one of the Temple gates when he sees Peter and John and asks them for a handout. They could have kept on walking but they stop, look directly into his eyes, and command him to look at them.
- 3 Now that they have his undivided attention, they respond to his request. Rather than giving him what he is asking for, they give him what he needs. The man is healed by the power of Jesus' name, and Peter pulls him to his feet!
- 4 What a surprise! For the first time ever, this man is able to stand upright on legs and ankles that have been made strong. Even more surprising is that he doesn't just walk about to test his new skills, immediately he begins jumping and shouting out God's praises.
- 5 The other people in the Temple courts are also surprised because they know him as the lame one they passed every day at the Temple gate. These people are shocked and full of wonder.

APPLY:

Ask:

- How does the Name of Jesus continue to heal people today?

Answers may include: healing from sin, physical healing, healing relationships between one another etc. You may wish to share examples of anointing or prayer services from your own experience.

- What do you think it means to pray in Jesus' name?

To do anything in someone's name means to act with their permission, by their authority as described in Acts 3:6 and James 5:14. To pray in Jesus' name we must understand what Jesus desires for us and for others. As we learn more about Jesus, we begin to

understand through his Holy Spirit what to pray for. Then we are able to pray in the name of Jesus.

Invite your guest(s) to share their stories of healing.

RESPOND:

Hand out name tags and note cards to students. Have them sit in a circle.

Say: One form of healing that we can all offer to others is to affirm people and say positive things about them. I'd like for you to think about the person on your left, and think of a name for them that describes their positive qualities. Write that name on the nametag and give it to them.

When everyone is wearing their new name tag, go around the circle and talk about why each person was given their new name.

Ask students to use the note cards to write down one way they can act in the name of Jesus to bring healing to the people they come into contact with this week. Remind them again about the power of affirmation as well as the power of prayer.

Close with a sending / commissioning prayer for each student, asking God to empower them to represent him during this week.

WORD MATCH ACTIVITY:

__ Peter	A Pleasant
__ Naomi	B Draw Out
__ Joshua	C Where is the Glory?
__ Ichabod	D Bitter
__ Esau	E Rock
__ Nabal	F Savior
__ Jacob	H Hairy
__ Moses	I Fool
__ Mara	J Heel Grabber

ANSWERS: Peter- E, Naomi-A, Joshua-F, Ichabod-C, Esau-H, Nabal-I, Jacob-J, Moses-B, Mara-D

INSIGHTS FROM THE SCRIPTURE:

We know the Apostle Peter first as Simon, who with his brother Andrew and their father Jonah are Galilean fishermen. Peter and Andrew are the first persons called by Jesus to be disciples. Jesus eventually gave Simon the name Cephas (Peter) which means “rock”. Peter eventually became one of three disciples in the inner core with Jesus. Peter is remembered for his confession of Jesus as Messiah and also for his three-time denial that he ever knew Jesus.

The Apostle John and his brother James were also the sons of a fisherman and partners with Peter and Andrew in the fishing enterprise, according to Luke 5:10. James and John were the remaining two disciples who, along with Peter, comprised the inner circle for Jesus. John and James are also thought to have been cousins of Jesus.

Peter and John are recognized as leaders in the early Christian church and are assumed to be among those who began meeting daily to eat together, share their possessions and worship.

These Jewish Christians continued to observe the custom of daily prayer in the Temple and it is on one of their regular trips there that Peter and John are confronted by the lame man who has been crippled since birth. We know from Acts 4:22 that the man was forty years old and people had been placing him at the gate to beg on a daily basis.

The people of Peter’s day believed that persons who were crippled or suffering from other diseases were being punished for sin. This could be sin in their lives, or the lives of their parents. The lame man likely understood his illness to be the result of sin. Peter and John have shared their possessions with the church and have no money to give the man. What they do have—the power of the name of Jesus—provides a new life for a man who has never known what it is to stand or to walk.

To speak in the name of Jesus was to act with his power and authority. Like the healing done by Jesus during his earthly ministry, the name of Jesus brings healing of body and spirit for the lame man. He is moved to praise the One from who all healing comes.