

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32a)

Peter and John – Acts 3:1-10

Prepare to Wonder

Peter and John were devout Jews who went to the temple daily to pray. This story opens with Peter and John going into the temple for evening prayer. While entering the gate, they saw a man who could not walk since birth. Each day, people carried the man to the gate so he could beg. The man begged at the gate because no one else would help him or include him in their community.

When the man begs from Peter and John, Peter tells the man they have no money for him and, instead, offer him something better. Peter commands the man to rise up in the name of Jesus, and then pulls him up by the hand. The man is healed by the power of Jesus and begins to walk, leap, and praise God. All who saw this miracle were amazed, and soon a crowd gathered. Peter then told Jesus' story to all the people. He wanted to make sure that people understood the power to heal was not his, but God's. All the glory belonged to God. Later, the man joins Peter and John in the temple as a member of the faith community.

Children will encounter people who are asking for help. They might not always know what to do. We can't always heal everyone, but we can help with a small task or help one person at a time. This story also includes amazement and surprise, which are common responses to these kinds of healings. Like many of the stories in this unit, there is great mystery in what happened, allowing children to wonder about Jesus and his teachings, healings, and ministry.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This story can evoke confusion or questions from children about how this man was healed. It might even bring up questions about why this man was healed and others are not. This week practice open-ended questions with children, because you don't always know what your kids might say. It is important to let children process even the hard stuff.

Here are some questions to try:

- When a child doesn't make the best choice: "What could you have done instead?"
- When a child has an idea: "How are you planning to do that?"
- When a child is upset: "What happened?"
- When a child can't let something go: "Why is it so important to you?"

Welcome to Wonder

Prepare Ahead: As a family, create a Wonder Table. Find a small table or area in your home. On the table, place a candle, a plant or flower, and any other special items you want to include.

Tip: Use this space while engaging in the lesson.

- Gather together near your Wonder Table.

WONDER together

- Who do you ask when you need help?
- What kinds of tasks do you ask this person (these people) to help you with?

CONTINUE to wonder

- Have you ever helped someone who asked you for help?
- How did you help this person (these people)?

PRAY together

- Dear God, thank you for helping us. Amen.

SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or download the song, "Tell Somebody" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play the song, "Tell Somebody."
- Sing and celebrate.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: CEB Bible, Wonder Cube (Digital Class Pack), optional: Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook

READ the Bible story

- Read the Bible story: Acts 3:1-10.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answer a few of the questions.

WATCH the Bible story

- Visit <https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video> to download and watch today's Bible story, or watch on www.amplifymedia.com.

SHARE the Faith Word

- Faith Word: SHARE—To *share* means to offer God's blessings to others.

- We know that God gives us blessings and love. God wants us to share those blessings and God’s love with others.

WONDER: Who shares in today’s Bible story? What do they share?

Spiritual Gifts (Reflection/Craft)

Supplies: paper, pencils, crayons or markers

WONDER: What is a spiritual gift? Is it like a present? Is it something special?

SAY: Spiritual gifts are like presents from God. God gives each of us special ways to show and share God’s love in the world.

- Brainstorm together what some examples of spiritual gifts might be.
- On a piece of paper, draw or write what you think your spiritual gifts might be on your paper. Display the papers somewhere they will be seen often, to remind each person of the special ways he or she can help others.

SAY: Each of us has special ways to help others, just like Peter and John did.

Spiritual Practice—Sharing the Good News Through Witness

Supplies: Celebration Chart (Digital Class Pack), construction paper (red or pink), scissors, optional: Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book

Prepare Ahead: Using the red or pink construction paper, cut out a heart that can fit in the palm of your hand.

- Gather near your Wonder Table in a circle.

SAY: Today we are invited to share our gifts with others.

- Pass the paper heart clockwise around the circle.
- When each person passes the heart to the person on her or his left, this person can say “I share my gifts with you.”
- Repeat this pattern until you’ve made it around the circle.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for calling us and trusting us to share our gifts with others. Amen.

- Find a time to read together the *Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book*.

Tip: If someone in your group is nonverbal, they are welcome to simply pass the heart to the next person, or an adult can say “(Name) shares her (or his) gifts with (name of the person to the left).”