

“But What We Do Have...JESUS!”

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INTRODUCTION

We all have disappointments in life. Sometimes things turn out differently than we would have wished. In the story of the crippled man in Acts chapter 3, Peter and John come upon someone who undoubtedly wished his circumstances were changed. His life depended on the gifts of others, but he could scarcely have imagined the gift he would receive from Peter and John.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What is the most valuable possession you carry with you?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

People are BOUND, BROKEN AND BEAUTIFUL

Q1. Read Act 3:1-3, 1John 5:19, John 8:34

When you read the account of the beggar in Acts, what do you see that keeps him bound or broken? What do 1 John 5:19 and John 8:34 tell us can keep us bound and broken? What are some of the specific areas that you have seen others bound and broken by the enemy?

Q2 Read Genesis 1:27

The name of the gate where the beggar sat was called Beautiful. Sadly, all of us have seen people begging in our own communities. When God looks on us, what is one thing he will see according to Gen 1:27?

People are looking for EMPATHY, ENCOURAGEMENT & ENCOUNTERS

Q3. Read Hebrews 4:14–16

Consider the fate of the beggar. We know he asked for money daily to survive. If you were in his place, what else would you hope to gain from those who passed by? In what ways does Hebrews 4:14–16 tell us Jesus can relate to us and what do we gain from that?

Q4. Read Acts 3:6-7

Peter and John had a life-changing encounter with the beggar. When they encountered him, what was the only resource they had that could adequately meet the man’s need? What is one area you are aware of (your own or others), that seems to be in need of something you just can’t provide (money, time, healing...)? In what way can you bring the power of Jesus into that situation?

In Christ we find FORGIVENESS, FREEDOM & FULLNESS

Q5. Read Acts 3:16-20,

We might find it easier to trust in our own resources to solve a problem rather than trusting God, but our resources are very limited in what they can offer. What does Acts 3:19-20 tell us is uniquely available through God? In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus delivered a statement about the purpose of His ministry. What similarities do you see between forgiveness of sin, proclaiming freedom, restoring sight, and delivering from oppression?

Q6. Read Colossians 2:9-10, Ephesians 1:3

We may fail to live vibrantly right now because we focus on our “lack” rather than our blessings. What do Colossians 2:10 and Ephesians 1:3 tell us we have in Christ? What is one thing that has diverted your focus from the blessings of Christ that you would like to eliminate? What do you feel characterizes a life lived in the “fullness “ of Christ?

WRAP-UP

The beggar in Acts was bound and broken by his condition, but God saw him, as he sees us, as His children. The beggar sought empathy and encouragement from the passersby. What he received from Peter and John was a life-changing encounter. As Christ followers we may not have silver and gold to give, but we do have the ability to bring forgiveness, freedom and fullness of life to those who are needy, because we have Jesus.

Memory Verse

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
John 10:10 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more space) _____

Challenge: Ask God to reveal to you someone you can share Jesus with this week.

