## "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 study in your life:					can apply t
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.

#### Q1

Acts 3:1-3 ESV - 1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.

Jhn 8:34 ESV 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

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

### Q2

Gen 1:27 ESV 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Read Acts 3:4-10 in your Bible

## **Q3**

Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV - 14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## Q4

Acts 3:6-7 ESV - 6 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!" 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.

## **Q5**

Acts 3:16-20 ESV - 16 And his name--by faith in his name--has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. 17 "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

Luke 4:18-19 NIV - 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

#### Q

Colossians 2:9-10 NIV - 9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Ephesians 1:3 NIV - 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Prayer requests con't							