

# Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026

## Peter heals (Acts 3:1-10)

### Welcome

- If you could influence anyone to be a Christian who would it be?  
(It can be someone living or dead, someone you know or a celebrity – just a lighthearted question, not too serious!)

### Word

Read Acts 3: 1-10

1. Who was at the Temple and why? What time was it?

*The 3 stated times of prayer for the Jews were 9am, 3pm and sunset. The 'gate called Beautiful' was a major entrance to the Temple court. The initial ministry of the disciples after Pentecost was to practicing Jews – people much like themselves.*

2. Why was this the right place and the right time for Peter and John to perform this miracle and share the good news of Jesus?
3. After Pentecost, the disciples began by just sharing the good news about Jesus with fellow Jews. Why was this? If the aim was to get as many people as possible to believe in and follow Jesus – what are the pros and cons of this approach?
4. What kind of 'places' do we need to go to if we are to be in the right place at the right time? (as individuals and as a church)
5. How does the beggar respond to this miracle?
6. What was the response of the crowd to this miracle – was it different to the beggar, why?
7. The beggar was not afraid to show his absolute joy – how can we show this joy to others, so they can see what a difference God has made to us?

Read Acts 3: 11-18

8. The people 'were filled with wonder and amazement' (v10), but who did they think was responsible for this amazing act? (12)
9. Peter was careful to turn the attention away from themselves and point towards God instead. As we share God with others, either in words, action or music, how can we make sure that people see it is God's work rather than our own?
10. How does Peter describe God in verse 13? Is this an important way to describe God to the people that were listening?
11. How, and in what ways, can we put God 'into context' for our listeners (i.e. the people who hear our message at the park and those we share with on our frontlines etc)
12. What does Peter teach them about Jesus in verses 13 to 15? List all the things about Jesus he describes.
13. What do you think are the important points about Jesus we need to make clear to people today? Does it differ from Peter's description? Why or why not?

*In verse 15, Peter makes it clear that Jesus had risen from the dead and that he and John had personally witnessed that. The Greek word for 'witnesses' used here specifically means an eye-witness, someone who had actually experienced it themselves. Interestingly the English word 'martyr' is a derivation of the Greek word for 'witness'.*

14. We are not eye-witnesses to the resurrection so how can we be ready to answer people who doubt the resurrection of Jesus is true?
15. Peter makes it clear who was to blame for Jesus' death – who is to blame and why is this important?
16. (Optional: the answer to question 15 has, historically, often been a reason given by those who are antisemitic. What is the counter argument to this?)
17. What do you think is meant by 'complete healing' (v16)? What healing do you need in your life?

Read Acts 3: 19-26

18. What response does Peter suggest the listeners should make? (v 19)

*Peter then goes on to put it into context again, by explaining how the prophets had foretold this plan for many years. The Jewish audience would have had a good understanding of the prophets' writings (our Old Testament) and so this was a good way of helping them to understand Jesus' purpose and proving to them that he was who Peter was claiming him to be.*

19. Today, we often find the Old Testament difficult to understand and relate to. How can we appreciate the Old Testament more – given its importance to give the New Testament context and meaning?

*From verse 17 onwards, Peter changes tone from blame to hope. Christ's death was in God's purpose. Verse 18 is a quote from Psalm 11:2 and he uses this again in verse 26.*

20. Take a look at Matthew 16: 22. How has Peter's understanding changed? What do you think has brought about that change?

21. How has your understanding of who Jesus is matured? What has helped your understanding change?

22. How do you respond when you have opportunities like Peter's to talk about Jesus?

23. Peter and John made a point of being in the right place at the right time (they went to the temple at a very busy time to come into contact with many practicing Jews. How does this relate to your life? Where can you 'put yourself in the action'? A place where you are more likely to meet people who need Jesus. Is there any way you could do this as a group, or at least encourage one another? How can our church be better at this?

# Worship & Witness

Identify at least one person each, who you have regular contact with on your frontline – it could be a family member, a friend, a work colleague, a carer, a neighbour etc. Choose someone who you think might be receptive to the good news about Jesus. In your group, pray for these people. Write the names down so you can pray for them every week – it will also be good to share updates about opportunities for conversations too.