

Peter and John in Trouble

Acts 3:1-4:31





One day Peter and John were walking to the temple at about 3:00 in the afternoon to pray and tell others about Jesus.

As they walked up to the gate a man lay there crying out to the crowds, "Please help me. I cannot walk, and have never been able to walk. Please give me some money so I can get food."

He saw Peter and John about to walk in and he turned to them, "Please, just a few coins for a starving man."

Peter looked down at him and said, "I have no money, but I have a better gift for you. In the name of Jesus Christ stand up and walk."



Peter took him by the hand and pulled the man to his feet. Immediately the man's feet, and legs were strong.

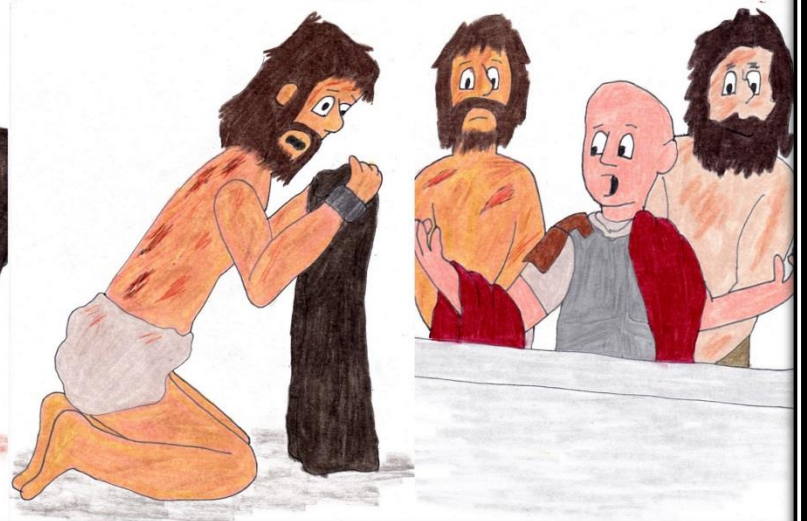
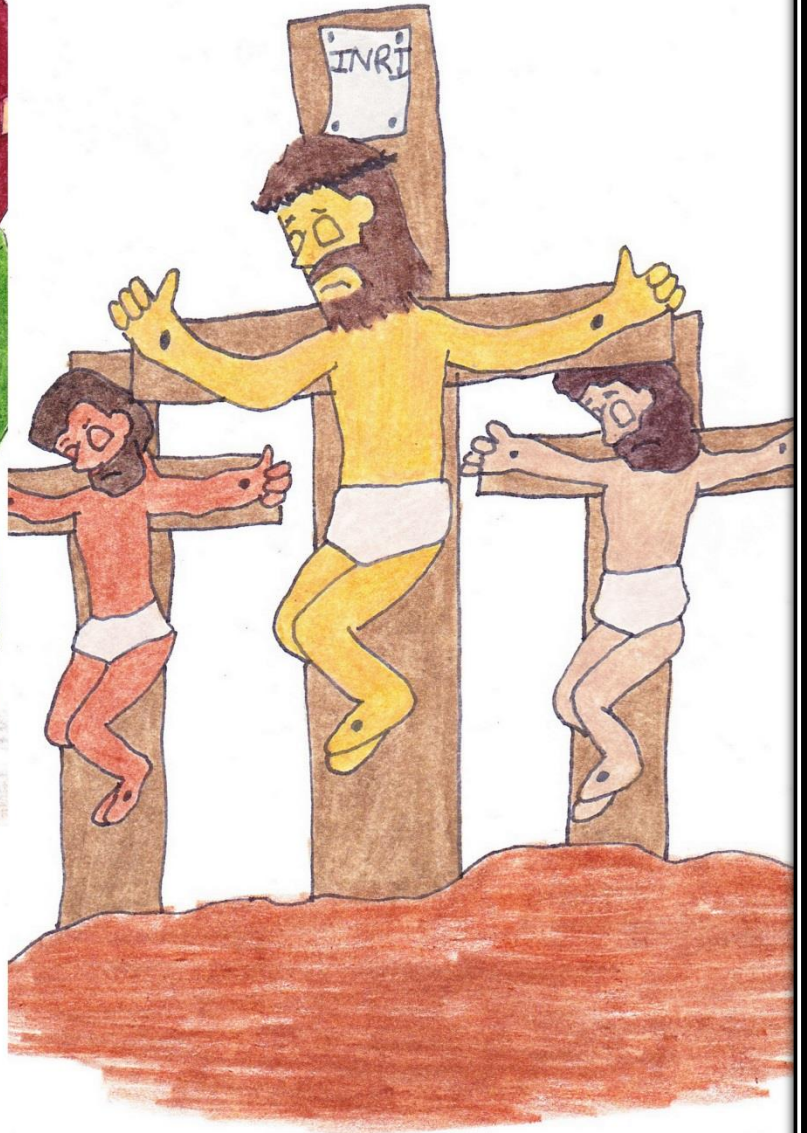
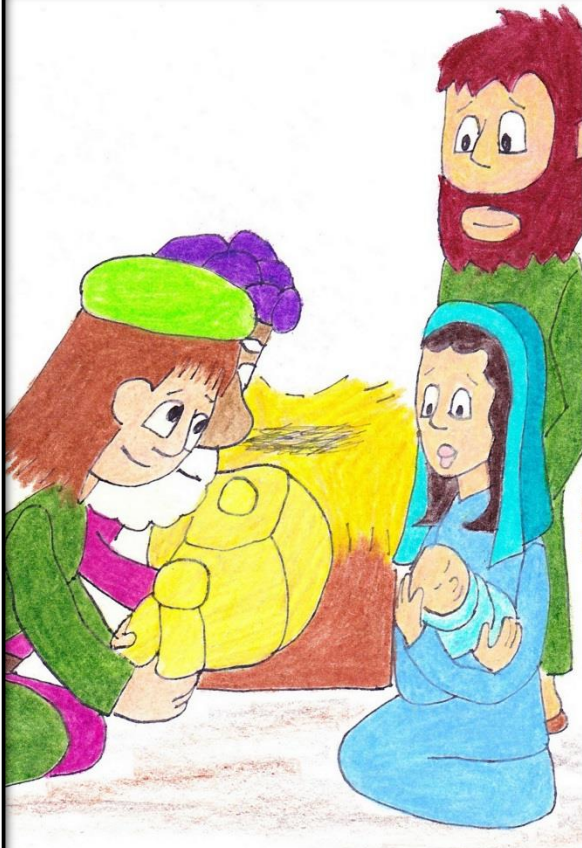
The man looked down at his feet, for the first time in his life he was standing on his own. No one was holding him up, no one was helping him.

He took one unsure step, then another. Then he began to walk, then run, faster and faster.

"God is amazing!" He shouted as he ran past Peter and John. He shouted over and over until a crowd was watching him.

They began to stare and point, "Isn't that the man who was lame?" "I've seen him laying here for years, how is he walking?"

Everyone was amazed at what they saw.



John looked at Peter and nodded. Peter smiled and stepped forward addressing the crowd. “Men of Israel, why are you amazed? Why are you staring at us? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, sent His servant Jesus.”

The crowd moved nervously at Jesus name. “He sent His servant Jesus, and you denied Jesus in front of Pilate, you released a murderer rather than God’s Chosen One. You killed God’s Son, the Creator of the World. We all witnessed it. But, God raised Him from the dead. We have seen Him.”

Peter gestured to the man healed, “And by Jesus name, by faith in Jesus name this man was healed, and you all saw it. You are now witnesses too.”

“Now, I know you all acted in ignorance, you did not know Jesus was God’s Son.”

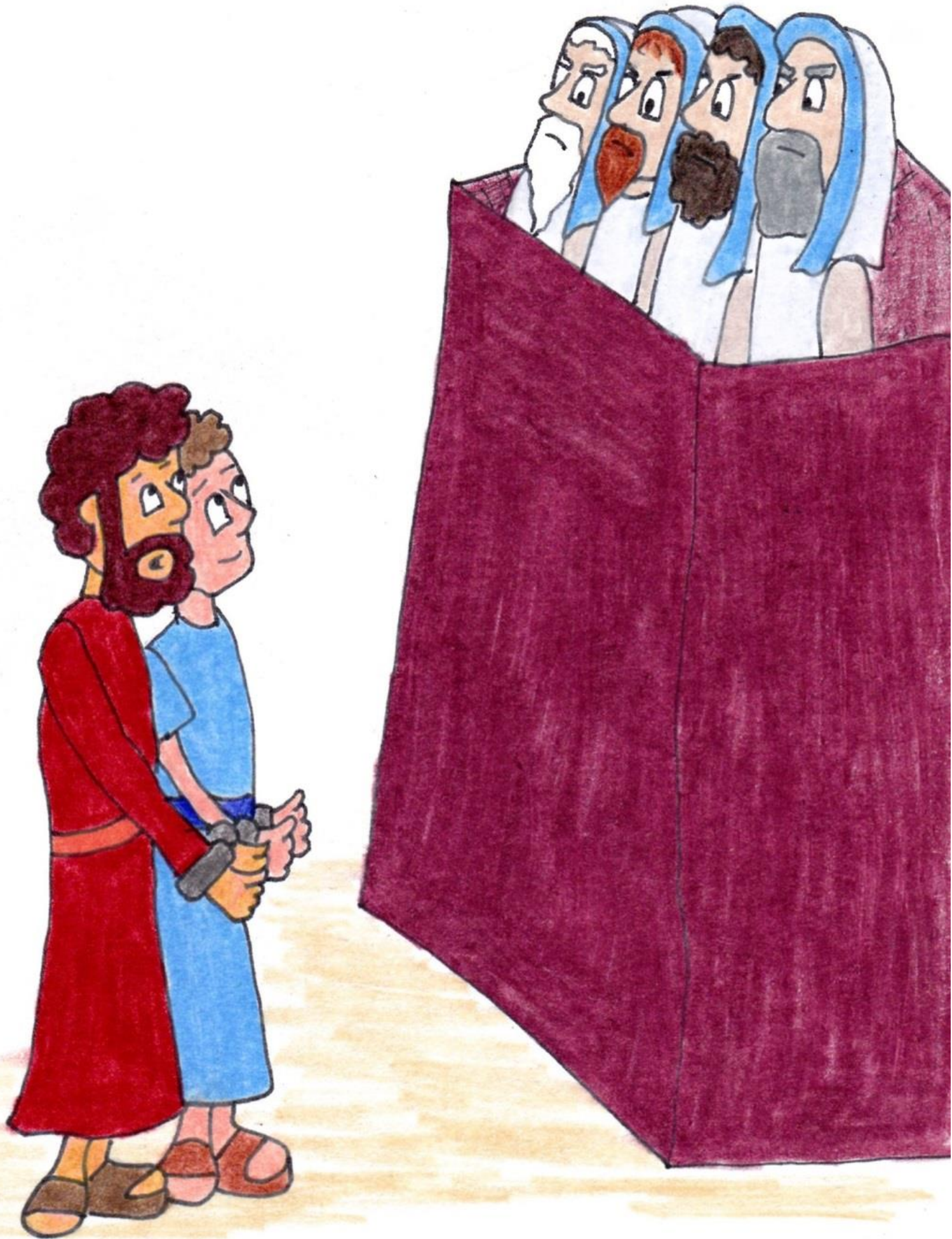


“But, God planned this all. He sent prophet after prophet to tell you of Jesus Christ, our savior. He warned us Jesus would suffer. He warned us Jesus would die, and He promised us Jesus would live again.”

The crowd demanded, “What should we do, tell us!”

“Now, brothers, repent. God will erase your sins, and will refresh you. You will have Jesus with you, and He will return again.”

The crowd pressed forward to hear more, and Peter continued. “Listen to the words of Moses, “The Lord your God will call up for you a prophet like me. You must listen to him and do what he says. But, if you do not listen, then you will be destroyed. Every prophet said the same thing. You are the sons of prophets and the children of Abraham, God promised Abraham, “Your offspring will bless the world.” God has fulfilled that promise. Now obey God.”



But as they spoke the temple guards moved among the crowd. The captain of the guard gestured imperiously, “Arrest those men.”

Peter and John were taken to the jail, but as they left thousands believed.

The very next day the rulers of the temple, the scribes, and the priests gathered together in Jerusalem.

Peter and John were roughly thrown into the courtroom, and stumbled before their judges. “By what power did you heal that man?” demanded the high priest.

Peter stepped forward filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke, “Rulers of the people, if we are to be judged for healing a crippled man, then let it be known that we heal in the name of Jesus Christ, crucified and raised from the dead.”



The priests and scribes sat back in dismay, and Peter boldly spoke on, “The very same Jesus you rejected, He is now the cornerstone of our salvation. No one else can save you. Not in heaven or on earth.”

The chief priests and the rulers of the temple were amazed that a simple Galilean could speak so well. They conferred and everyone agreed they’d seen these men with Jesus, and no one knew what to say to them. Finally they sent them out of the room.

“What shall we do? Everyone has heard of the sign, and we cannot deny it. Let us tell them to speak no more on this. Maybe it will go away.”



So, they called in Peter and John and gave them the decree.

Peter bowed respectfully, “You must decide, should we obey you or God? We can only speak of what we have seen and heard.”

They threatened Peter and John, but knew they could do nothing right now. Too many people had known the man for the past 40 years as a crippled man. Too many people had seen the healing. This was a miraculous healing, and they could not deny it.

Finally they let Peter and John go.



Peter and John ran as fast as they could to the other believers. They told everything that happened and the other believers marveled at the story.

When everyone had quieted down they began to pray, their voices mixing together in praise of God.

“Thank you Lord for allowing us to suffer for you. Herod, Pilate, the Gentiles, and the Jews could not stand against your courage. Now, we can say we stood up for you. We suffered just like you promised. Continue to give us boldness as we speak your name.”

As they prayed a great earthquake shook their house and they were filled with the Holy Spirit to continue with boldness.

Questions

Younger Kids

1. How did the disciples react to the beggar asking for money?
2. Why did this amaze the people so much?
3. What did Peter tell the crowd?
4. When the judges told Peter and John to stop telling people about Jesus, how did they reply?
5. What did Peter and John do when they were released?

Middle Kids

1. Why was the fact the man had been begging for 40 years important to his healing?
2. Who healed the man? Read Acts 3:6. What does it mean he was healed in Jesus' name? Why do you think they healed him that way?
3. Read Acts 4:12. What is Peter's answer to the Pharisees? Where is salvation found? Why is this so upsetting to them?

4. Read Acts 4:13-14. What is the Pharisees response to Peter and John? Do you think it was Peter who impressed them or God's words through Peter?
5. Read Acts 4:29-31. What did the believers pray for when Peter and John came back? What would you pray for in that situation?

Older Guys

6. Read Acts 3:12-23.
 - a. Who healed the man?
 - b. What does it mean that he was healed in Jesus' name?
 - c. If they believe Jesus could heal this man, what should they do?
 - d. Who foretold Jesus was coming?
7. Read Acts 4:8-12
 - a. Peter and John are called to account for their "authority" to heal the beggar. How do they respond?
 - b. Read v12 : what is the message God intended by healing the beggar?

8. Read Acts 4:19-20

- a. Peter and John are told to stop talking about Jesus. How did they answer? Why is the way they replied important?

9. Read Acts 4:29-31

- a. The believers pray after hearing Peter and John's story. What would you pray for after being sent to jail and threatened with more?
- b. What did they pray for?
- c. What was God's response?

Activities

1. The lame man praised God while running and leaping. We often limit praising God to singing songs in church, what are other ways we can praise God? Brainstorm together and then go do one of your ideas.
2. Make a "Praising God" banner. Paint the bottom of your feet and walk across a piece of butcher paper. When the paint is dry write "Walking and leap and praising God."

Online

1. Peter and John lesson plans and coloring pages- [http://www.calvary-kids-pages.com/Acts-Peter John.html](http://www.calvary-kids-pages.com/Acts-Peter_John.html)
2. Peter and John online activities- <http://gardenofpraise.com/bibl33s.htm>
3. Lesson plan- <http://ccquakertown.org/Childrens/Curriculum/TeachersGuide/NewTestament/CURNT287.pdf>
4. Peter and John lame man activity pages, worksheets- <http://calvarycurriculum.com/pdf/childrenscurriculum/NEW/CURR247.PDF>