

# Acts 3

## Billboards to Jesus

**Scripture:** Acts 3

**Memory Verse:** Acts 3:19 *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”*

**Lesson Focus:** In this passage we see the first healing miracle done by God through the apostles. But as we will see, God’s greater purpose for this miracle was that it would be used as a “billboard” to grab people’s attention and point them to Jesus. We pray kids would respond by seeing their own lives as “billboards” that will gladly point to Jesus!

**Activities and Crafts:** Healing the Lame Man Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Find the Treasure Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Make Your Own Billboard

**Starter Activity:** Billboards

Consider getting the lesson started by having some discussion about billboards. Many of the kids may have gone on road trips this Summer and that is where they may remember seeing them.

Q: Did any of you go on any road trips this summer? A: Where? \*

Well, when you were on the road and not playing games on your tablet or watching your movie, you might have looked out the window and seen a whole bunch of “billboards”.

Q: What are billboards? A: Those huge signs that they put up next to the highways to grab your attention.

**Teachers:** At this point, share several example billboards with the kids. We will leave a few with you in your room that you can use (see one example at the end of the lesson). Or if you have some that have caught your attention bring in those examples!

It costs a lot of time and money to build and put up a billboard sign this big!

Q: So why? What is the purpose of these billboards? A: They are there to point to something else more important than the billboard itself! \*

You might remember how we introduced the book of Acts as a book with a lot of ACTION! \* We are going to see some pretty exciting action today thru a miracle. \* But just like the billboards, this miracle (and others in the Bible) has a greater purpose. It is designed to get people’s attention and to point them to something else more important. Let’s open our Bibles and find out what that is!

## Bible Study:

Remember that the promised Holy Spirit had come and the new believers were “fizzing” with excitement for Jesus (see the lesson from last weekend and consider rereading **Acts 2:42-43** and point out how even signs and wonders were being done thru the apostles).

**Acts 3:1:** Our text begins with Peter and John going to the Jewish temple for prayer. While they were believers in Jesus, they were also still following a lot of their Jewish practices.

**Acts 3:2:** And as they approach the gate of the temple, they encountered a lame man.  
Q: What does it mean that this man was lame? A: It means he couldn’t walk! That is why he had to be carried there. And notice that it describes him as someone who was lame from birth! That means he was born this way and has never walked his whole life!

Q: Have any of you had crutches before? What was it like and how did you get around? \*

**Acts 3:3:** As he saw Peter and John, he asked for alms.

Q: What does this mean? A: He is simply asking for money or goods to help him. Whenever you give to charity, like to the Compassion kids in your classes, you are giving “alms” to help them. Giving to the poor and needy is something that Christians have been doing since the beginning. Why? Because God cares for the poor and needy!

**Acts 3:4-5:** Peter sorta says to the guy: “*I, 2, 3, eyes on me!*” and the guy responds with “*I, 2, eyes on you!*” \* He has given Peter and John his attention and I bet he is expecting some money or something. But he is certainly not expecting what he is about to get!

**Acts 3:6:** WHOA! Wait a minute: Doesn’t Peter know that this guy has never walked a step in his whole life? For him to get up and walk is: IMPOSSIBLE!

**Acts 3:7:** But as the Bible says, “*with God all things are possible*” (**Luke 18:27**)! Notice that it says his feet and ankles “received strength”.

Q: Where did that “strength come” from? A: It came from God through Peter who was “fizzing” with the Holy Spirit!

**Acts 3:8:** And not only was he able to take his first step, but he took his first leap and jump and kept doing it over and over with excitement! This is remarkable considering how long it takes little kids to learn how to walk! \*

Boys and Girls: This is a miracle! God just did the IMPOSSIBLE thru Peter and John!

**Teachers:** Before continuing on, consider rereading through these verses and have a few volunteers silently act them out as you read. \* If you have time, draw a sign on one of the doors called “Beautiful” \* and put it up where the action takes place. Have two volunteers carry the “lame” volunteer to the “gate” as Peter and John approach. Encourage the volunteer to really “ham it up” when he is healed, jumping & leaping!

**Acts 3:9-11:** And the people took notice. It says that they were filled with wonder and amazement for they knew that this guy was crippled since birth and now he's walking!

Just like a billboard grabs the attention of lots of people on their road trips, this miracle has grabbed the attention of hordes of people. \*

**Acts 3:12:** And just like a billboard grabs your attention to point you to something else beyond itself, Peter is using this miracle to point people to something beyond himself. \*

**Acts 3:13-16:** Peter points them away from himself and to the gospel of Jesus Christ: That He was God's promised Savior who died and rose again. He also confronts them with their sin: that they are guilty of murdering God's promised Savior!

Q: Who was the murderer they wanted released instead of Jesus at His trial?

A: Barabbas!

**Acts 3:17-19:** After presenting them with their sin problem, he now gives them the solution: To repent and believe in Jesus! \* How gracious God is that He would "blot out" their sin and guilt, even the sin of killing their own Savior and Messiah!

Q: What does it mean to "blot out" something? A: It means to erase it! **Teachers:** Consider drawing a simple chart on the whiteboard. List several common sins at the top of each column (lying, stealing, hating, dishonoring parents, greed, etc.) and then draw two rows with boy and girl stick figure. Then have the kids imagine themselves as that boy or girl and honestly think how many "marks" they would have as they look back on their lives. Maybe use yourself as an example and add lots of "marks" for yourself. Then ask what such a person deserves: Punishment! But when a person repents and believes in Jesus, He "blots" those marks out! (At this point, have a volunteer come up and erase all of the marks). And with the crimes blotted out, so is the punishment!

In fact, instead of punishment Peter says that times of "refreshing" come as the person becomes a child of God. \*

**Acts 3:20-21:** Peter now points also to the future when Christ returns to restore all things. We are still awaiting that moment!

**Acts 3:22-26:** After quoting several Old Testament prophecies which support his point, he closes with another appeal to repent, or turn away, from their sins.

**Key Point:** The same gospel is still true today! We must repent, or turn away, from our sins and believe on Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. This was the greater purpose of the miracle and as we will see next week, many people believed and got saved! If you haven't done this yet, repent and believe today and your sins will also be blotted out! \*

But for those of you who have already repented and believed, your life is also a billboard! Everything you say and do is to point to something beyond yourself. (**Teachers:** See the "Christ is Lord" billboard and close the lesson with this) \* Just like Peter pointed others to Jesus, we are to point others to Jesus! Be a "billboard to Jesus" this week!

# FIND THE TREASURE

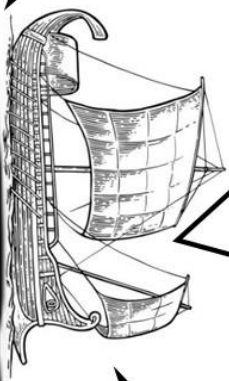
**Mediterranean World**  
Countries or Areas and Islands



**Read Acts 3:12**  
Whose power made the lame man able to walk?

**PARENT CHALLENGE**  
What billboards grab your attention? Why?

**Read Acts 3:19**  
What does it mean to have your sins "blotted out"?



EAT MOR CHIKIN!

