




# STUDY POINTING TO JESUS

## Background

Many people believed in Jesus. They formed a new community. The apostles did many signs and wonders (2:43). This passage tells us about one of those signs and what happens as a result.

## Read

 **READ** Acts 3:1-26 two or three times

Try to summarise each paragraph in your own words.

## Understand

 **READ** Acts 3:1-10

Verse 2: "Lame", "crippled from birth" – unable to walk.

Verse 2: "Beg" – ask for money.

- What are we told about the lame man who cannot walk?
- What does Luke emphasise in verses 7-10?

Peter and John meet a lame man who is begging. Peter heals him in the name of Jesus. Luke emphasises that he is healed immediately. He now walks and jumps! People are amazed.

 **READ** Acts 3:11-16

Verse 13: "Glorified" – show someone is special.

Verse 14: "Disowned" – reject.

- How does Peter explain this healing?
- Find all the ways that Peter says people treated Jesus.
- Find the names Peter uses for Jesus.

Peter says that this healing was not done by himself or John. God did the miracle to give honour to Jesus. Notice that Peter calls God: "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers" (v13). The God of the Old Testament has worked through Jesus.

Peter explains what the people have done. He says how terrible it is. They disowned Jesus, who was God's "Holy and Righteous One" (v14). They killed the "author" (giver) of life (v15).

But God raised Jesus from the dead. It is through Jesus that Peter can heal this lame man. So the healing is a sign of what God has done through Jesus. Miracles are meant to point people to Jesus.

 **READ** verses 17-26

Verse 18: "Fulfilled" – made promises come true.

Verse 18: "Foretold" – said it will happen.

Verse 19: "Repent" – change direction.

Verse 25, 26: "Blessed" / "bless" – bring goodness and happiness.

- What is Peter's conclusion in verse 18?
- What does Peter tell people to do in verse 19? How does all this fit with the Old Testament (v22-26)?

God fulfilled all his promises in the Old Testament through what happened to Jesus. God said his Messiah (or Christ) would suffer to bring forgiveness (eg: Isaiah 53).

The people must now repent and turn to God. If they do, they will be forgiven. There will be times of refreshing—new life in the Holy Spirit. They will then wait for Jesus to return and restore the world.

All that happened fits with the Old Testament. Jesus is the new prophet that Moses talked about (v22). Everyone must now respond to Jesus (v23). Jesus' death and resurrection fulfils all that the prophets said would happen (v24-25).

Through Jesus, God kept his promise to Abraham to bring blessing (salvation) to all people (Genesis 12:3 and 22:18). This message came first to the Jews (v26), but then to the rest of the world.

## Find the main point of the passage

- What does Peter say the people have done?
- What does Peter say God has done in Jesus?
- What should people now do?

The people rejected Jesus, who was God's Saviour. But that was part of God's plan to save people. Now he has shown who Jesus is by a miracle. This fulfils all that God promised in the Old Testament. People should now turn to Jesus to be forgiven.

So the main point is that God shows by a miracle what he has done in Jesus. Everyone should now turn to Jesus for forgiveness.



# PLAN

## Main point of the sermon

A sermon explains the passage, and applies the passage to the hearers. Look at the main point of the passage. Write down what this main point will mean for your hearers.

It will be something like this: A miracle points to Jesus. Jesus is God's Saviour, who fulfils all God's promises. Everyone must turn to God and trust in Jesus for forgiveness.

## Sub-points

- Read the main point again.
- Read the verses again.
- What sub-points will help you teach this passage?

This passage divides into two parts: The story of the healing, and how Peter explains it.

- How can you show what God has done in Jesus?
- How can you tell people what they should now do?

Think of a heading for each sub-point.

For example:

1. A miraculous sign (v1-10)
2. A wonderful Saviour (v11-16)
3. So turn and trust in Jesus (v17-26)

## Illustrate

The main point is about realising who Jesus is. The miracle is a sign that points to him. Talk about road signs. They point us in the right direction. They tell us where to go. This passage is about a sign which points to Jesus and tells us what to do.

## Apply

If we were alive when this happened, then we would respond to Jesus in the same way as these people did. Think about how the people rejected Jesus. We do the same too! We should feel ashamed because of our sin.

But God has worked through Jesus to bring forgiveness. We can be happy and excited.

We must know how important it is for people to turn to God and trust in Jesus. We must do this ourselves. We must help other people to do this.

## Review

Check the main point is clear and that you keep to THIS passage.



# TEACH

## Start

This passage is about understanding who Jesus is. It begins with a sign that points to Jesus. *Use your illustration.* Signs point us in the right direction and tell us where to go. This sign points to Jesus.

## Explain

### A miraculous sign (v1-10)

*Explain the amazing miracle in v1-10. Show the sudden change and how everyone is amazed. Are you amazed? Then you are ready to hear how Peter explains the miracle.*

### A wonderful Saviour (v11-16)

This miracle does not mean Peter or John are special (v11-12). It is a sign but it does not point to them! Verse 13 is key: This miracle is a sign to show how special Jesus is.

The people made a terrible mistake in not understanding Jesus. They rejected and killed him, even though Jesus was God's servant. We would do the same if we were there.

But God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is alive and reigns with God. This miracle in Jesus' name is a sign pointing to Jesus, saying that Jesus is the Saviour sent by God.

### So turn and trust in Jesus (v17-26)

The people listening to Peter must see who Jesus is. They must turn

and trust in Jesus: So must we.

*Explain that "repentance" means turning from sinful ways to God, so that he is Lord of your life. When someone repents, all their sin is cleaned away for ever. That person receives the Holy Spirit and lives for God, looking forward to when Jesus will return to restore everything.*

God promised all this in the Old Testament. God promised to bless the world (v25). All God's promises are made true in Jesus. God's plan focuses on Jesus.

## Apply

The miracle points us to Jesus, the Saviour. Do we know our sin in rejecting Jesus? Do we see who Jesus is? *Call people to believe in Jesus.*

## End

Jesus is the one God sent to save. Although we have sinned, we can find forgiveness and peace in him. We must confess our sin, turn to God and trust in Jesus.

## Pray

*Pray that your people will understand all God has done in Jesus. Pray that you will rejoice in his forgiveness and live with Jesus as Lord, looking forward to his return.*