**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 1 of 4

# Peter and John

### MEETING AIM

To explore the impact of Jesus on our lives.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 3

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your particular situation.

Often, when we tell this story, we focus on the healing on the beggar at the temple gates. Yet, while this is a life-changing encounter for the beggar, there are other things at play that we should take note of. First, we see the two disciples carry on the work that Jesus gave them, being confident in the power of the Spirit to heal. Second, Peter uses the healing not to glorify himself, but to point people towards Jesus.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Welcome the young people to your group and share out any refreshments you have – try fruit, toast, pastries or pizza (depending on when you meet). Chat with the young people about what their week has been like. Share their triumphs and disasters and everything in-between. If appropriate, share a story or two from your own week. Ask the group if they have done anything spectacular or amazing this week.

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** pens and paper

Give everyone a pen and a sheet of paper. Ask the young people to think about the best gift anyone could ever give them, and then to write that down, without anyone seeing what they have written. Collect all the papers in and then read out one of the suggestions. The group then has to guess who chose that particular gift. Once the group has guessed, ask the person why they chose that as their best gift. Carry on until you have read out all the gifts.

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** Bibles; large sheets of thick card (a large box cut up into pieces would be ideal); marker pens; garden canes; strong sticky tape

Give out the Bibles and read Acts 3:1-10 together. Ask for volunteers to be Peter, John and the man begging by the temple. Other people can be the crowd. Encourage the young people to come up with a drama that re-enacts the passage. Let the group direct the action themselves, but be ready to help out if they need a bit of assistance. Once they’re ready, act out their drama. Ask the group for their initial thoughts on what they think is going on.

Give out the sheets of card and marker pens. Ask the group to read Acts 3:11-26 and pick out anything Peter says which stands out to them. (You could do this all together or in small groups.) Challenge them to create a placard which represents what stands out to them. Once everyone has made a placard, tape a garden cane to the back of each one.

Read Acts 3:11-26 aloud (if the person who played Peter earlier is a confident reader, they could read it out as if talking to a crowd of people). When the young people hear their point being read out, they should hold up their placard, as if they were on a demonstration.

At the end, recap what has happened. Try to draw out that the man asked for money, but in the power of the Spirit, Peter and John healed him instead. Their gift to him was much longer lasting that just a few coins. When Peter spoke to the crowd, he didn’t say how wonderful he and John were, but told the crowd about Jesus.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Ask the young people these questions, encouraging everyone to take turns to contribute:

* If you were the man begging by the gate, what would you think when Peter and John came up to you? And after they healed you?
* What do you think the man did next?
* Imagine a conversation between two people in the crowd. What would they say to each other after listening to Peter’s speech?
* What stood out to you in Peter’s speech? (You could refer back to the placards if that would help.)
* What impact has Jesus made on your life?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** art materials; craft materials; Bibles; comic-book Bible; reference books; wooden bricks; pens and paper; playdough

Before the session, collect together a set of resources that the young people might use to make a response to what God has been saying to them through today’s Bible passage. This can include art and craft materials, interesting books, building blocks – anything that might inspire a response. Set out the materials so the young people can access them all easily.

Give the group a free choice about what they want to do to respond to what God is saying to them. If they want to work in pairs or small groups, they can do so. Make sure a leader is standing by the resources to help the group access anything they need to make a response. Be around to chat if any of the young people want to ask you any questions or talk to you.

At the end of your time, have a time of sharing what you have done (but don’t force anyone to share, if they don’t want to).

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** reflective music and the means to play it (optional)

Tell the young people about the impact Jesus has had on your life. You could talk about something practical, like the man being healed, or something more eternal, as Peter describes in his speech.

Play the reflective music if you’re using it. Ask the young people to reflect on the impact Jesus has had in their lives. Or the impact would they like him to have. Give the group space to think and pray about this.

If any of the group are responding to Jesus for the first time, be ready to help them take the next step. Have some booklets to help them.

Round up with a time of short, one-line prayers thanking Jesus for what he has done for us, or what we’d like him to do.

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