READY TO USE ALL-AGE SERVICE

# Peter and John

MEETING AIM

To think about what God gives us.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 3

BACKGROUND

This service is designed to be used with a congregation in a church building. However, with some adaptation, you should be able to use it on Zoom or other video conferencing software.

This is a story of healing and changing our lives around. This healing was an amazing, life-changing moment for the lame man, but it also tells us more about who Jesus is, what he came to do, and the gift he still is to us today. This session is a chance to explore what this story tells us about Jesus, to give us hope for ourselves and our friends, but also to get to join in the party with the lame man!

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## WELCOME – 5 mins

As people join your service, welcome them and ask them about their week. Try to have a mix of ages and backgrounds on your welcome team.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES – 10 mins

**OPTION ONE: Leaf crowns**

**You will need:** leaves (or ones cut from paper); strips of paper; marker pens; staplers

Give out leaves and pens and encourage people to write their names on their leaf. Then encourage them to gather in small groups (make sure people on their own are included). Give each smaller group a strip of paper and stapler. They should staple their leaves to the paper strip and loop it round to form a crown. Staple the paper strip to itself and then admire the crown together. Thank God for who he is and that he is the one that you all follow.

**OPTION TWO: Password prayers**

**You will need:** The Message; hula hoop; key shapes cut from card; string

Read Psalm 100 The Message. Say that a password is like a key that gives us access to things. In Psalm 100, the password into God’s presence is ‘thank you’. It’s the key that gives us access.

Use a large plastic hula hoop to make a ‘keyring’. Give everyone a cardboard cut-out of a key and a piece of string. Invite people to write or draw their ‘password prayers’ – things they want to say thank you for, things that God gives – onto their key and then use the string to attach the key onto the hoop.

Play soft music and stand around the hoop. Everyone chooses a key (not necessarily their own) and prays the password prayer from that key.

## BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** cameras or smartphones; any relevant props; horn or buzzer

Split into smaller groups with each group having a camera or smartphone. Explain that you are going to make a selfie story. Within each group, choose people to be John, Peter, Larry (the man who couldn’t walk) and the crowd. Provide props if possible. Read the story from the front and at each ‘selfie moment’ within the story, sound a horn or buzzer and take a selfie within the group. At the end, groups can go back through the photos and the story together.

Peter and John were going to the temple to pray. They went every day with lots of other people. Sound the selfie horn.

While they were walking, they passed a man who couldn’t walk sitting on the floor outside the temple, begging for money.We’ll call him Larry. Selfie horn.

“Pleeeaaase,” shouted Larry. “Can anyone spare any money?”

Larry begged every day, and all the people were used to seeing him. When Peter saw Larry, he called over to him.

“Hey, over here!” shouted Peter.

Larry held his breath. Was someone going to give him some money? He was so hungry and because he couldn’t walk, he couldn’t work to earn any money. He had to rely on others. He only wanted a small amount.

Peter and John walked over to Larry. Peter patted his pockets. Selfie horn.

“I haven’t got any silver or gold to give you,” Peter explained to Larry, “but I’ll give you what I do have.”

Larry was disappointed. There wasn’t anything better than money.

“In the name of Jesus Christ, get up off the ground and walk.”

Larry stared up at Peter. Selfie horn.

He knew Peter believed in this Jesus. He tried to stretch out his leg. It moved. He stared at it and then stretched out the other. It moved too. Selfie horn.

He couldn’t believe it. His legs had never moved before. He placed his feet on the ground and began to heave himself up. He wobbled and steadied himself. He was standing! He’d never stood before! Selfie horn.

He put one foot in front of the other, and then again, and again! He was walking! Selfie horn.

He tried a little jump! He tried a bigger jump! He leapt high in the sky! Selfie horn.

“Jesus has healed me!” he shouted. “Praise Jesus! He’s healed me!”

Larry skipped, danced and jumped around while everyone else looked on. Selfie horn.

Jesus had healed Larry and given him far more than the money he was hoping for. The people who had seen Larry on the floor begging day after day cheered. Selfie horn.

## SMALL GROUPS – 10 mins

**You will need:** copies of the questions below; Bibles

Encourage people to discuss these questions in smaller groups. Give each group a copy of these questions:

* Which character are you most like and why?
* How do you think the man felt when Peter didn’t give him any money?
* Talk about a time you’ve asked God for something but been given something different. How did it feel?
* How can we be God’s answer to other people’s prayers?
* What changes will you make after responding to this story?

Give the groups time to chat about these questions, referring to the Bible passage if they need to.

## REVIEW – 5 mins

**You will need:** roving mic (if needed)

Get some feedback on the questions from ‘Small groups’, using a microphone to hear people’s contributions if your meeting space is large.

## RESPONSE ACTIVITIES – 10 mins

Set these three activities up in different parts of your meeting space or in different breakout rooms.

**OPTION ONE: Choose your selfie**

**You will need:** selfies from ‘Bible story’; the sentences below printed on paper

Ask the group to look again through their selfie story from ‘Bible story’. Which selfie are they at right now?

Give these sentences to each person – encourage adults to support younger children with this. Tick the boxes that apply or fill in the ‘other’ section and then share with another person and pray together.

I am:

Asking God for something but can’t see any answers.

Disappointed with the answer I’m seeing.

Giving to other people.

Trying to give something I haven’t got.

Being given something I wasn’t expecting.

Watching in wonder as the answer is better than I expected.

Other…

**OPTION TWO: Reflection**

**You will need:** different household objects eg keys, rope, stationery, saucepans, coins, tape measure, soap; reflective music and the means to play it; paper and pens

Lay out the household objects in your meeting space. Play the music and invite people to choose an object that they feel reflects best how they can respond to this story. For example, a rope might be that they are feeling God is hanging onto them, a tape measure might be that they feel God’s grace for them is immeasurable. Once they have chosen an object, they can draw the item on paper or write their response to God to take home and remember.

**OPTION THREE: Discussion**

**You will need:** volunteers to facilitate discussion; paper and pens

Gather people together in small groups, each one with a facilitator, and challenge them to think about the impact that what they have discovered today will have.

## CLOSING – 5 mins

Bring everyone back together and ask if anyone would like to share anything from the response time. Thank everyone for taking part and say an appropriate blessing to close the service.

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