The Lame Man Walks

Bible Story
Acts 3:1-16

Teacher Challenge
Imagine being a Bible-times person who is unable to walk. To stay alive, you must beg for money. Crowds of people pass you; you crane your neck, struggling to catch the eye of someone who’ll give you a few coins. But mostly you see legs—legs that rush, hop, skip or waddle—legs that work. You have a great need, but you are powerless to meet it on your own.

When was a time of great need in your life? How was the need met?

When was a time you met a need in someone else’s life?

Peter and John did not have money to offer the lame man described in Acts 3, but they did have the ability to offer something even better: a new life through Jesus Christ. You are limited as well in the material offerings you can give people in need. But you also know the Life-Giver that others need. Let God use you to bring help to others. Let Him work through you as you teach young children.

Teacher’s Planning
1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.

2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.
Play to Learn

Active Game Center:
Legs in Motion

Collect
Bible, marker, ten slips of paper.

Prepare
Number papers from one to ten.

Do
1. Place papers facedown on floor or table. Invite a volunteer to choose a paper and tell the number printed on it. Invite another child to suggest a motion that uses legs (hop, run, march, tiptoe, etc.).
2. Children repeat the suggested motion as many times as numbered on the paper (march three times, hop five times, etc.).

Talk About
- Today’s Bible story is about a man who couldn’t use his legs. He couldn’t walk, run, jump or skip! Two of Jesus’ friends, Peter and John, obeyed God and helped the man. God made the man’s legs work, so he could walk! Let’s use our legs as we play a game.
- Josiah, you jumped really high five times! You know how to listen and obey. Madison, what is something your mom told you to do this morning? What did you do to obey?
- The Bible says, “Hear the word of God and obey it.” The Bible is the Word of God written down. Who reads Bible stories to you? Listening to Bible stories is one way to hear the Word of God.

For Younger Children
Use three papers instead of ten. If children are unable to suggest motions, be ready with suggestions.

For Older Children
Children count aloud as they perform each set of motions.
Play to Learn

Art Center: Jumping Legs

Collect
Bible, paper, ruler, scissors, crayons or markers, large rubber bands, stapler; optional—Lesson 31 Jumping Legs Patterns from Discovering God’s Love CD-ROM.

Prepare
For each child cut a 6x9-inch (15x23-cm) rectangle for a body, two 1x2-inch (2.5x5-cm) rectangles for feet and a 4-inch (10-cm) circle for a face. (Optional: Print and cut out Jumping Legs Patterns from CD-ROM.)

Do
1. Give each child a set of body, feet and face shapes and two rubber bands. Children draw faces and clothing on figures.
2. Help children assemble figures by stapling face to body, and rubber legs to body and feet.

Talk About
➢ Today’s Bible story is about a man who was lame. The man’s legs didn’t work at all. He couldn’t walk or jump. One of Jesus’ friends helped this man. God made the man’s legs well. The man jumped and hopped and thanked God.
➢ Move your figure up and down to make the man’s legs walk and jump!
➢ The Bible says, “Hear the word of God and obey it.” We obey God when we help others. Abby, you helped Brendan when you moved over and gave him more room. When you helped Brendan, you showed that you know how to obey.

For Younger Children
Staple head and rubber-band legs to figure before class. In class, children draw facial details and clothing.

For Older Children
Draw rectangle and circle patterns for children to cut out.

God’s Word
“Hear the word of God and obey it.”
Luke 11:28

God’s Word and Me
I can obey God by helping others.
Block Center: Obey and Build

Collect
Bible, blocks, toy cars.

Do
1. Children follow directions to build ramps.
   - Put a short block on the floor. Give children time to respond before giving each direction.
   - Put another short block on top of the first block. Lean a long block on the two short blocks so that one end touches the floor.
2. Children race toy cars on the ramps.

Talk About
- The Bible says, “Hear the word of God and obey it.” The Bible is the Word of God. When we do what the Bible says, we’re obeying God! Listen carefully to my directions. We’ll build car ramps!
- Now you have a ramp your cars can race down. You heard me and obeyed!
- God’s Word tells us to help others. We can obey God by helping others. Cameron, Ella needs a long block to finish building her ramp. How can you help her? Thank you for handing her a long block! You’re a good helper.
- Travis, who makes your breakfast in the morning? How can you help your dad make breakfast for your family?
- Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for the Bible. Help us to always obey Your Word.

For Younger Children
Children build towers only. Remind children to build towers no higher than their chins.

For Older Children
Children play a stacking game to build a group tower. Children take turns placing a block on the tower. As each child places a block, he or she tells one way to help others or names a person he or she may help.
Play to Learn

Science Center: Stand and Jump

Collect
Bible, yarn, masking tape, markers.

Prepare
Make a yarn line on floor.

Do
1. Children take turns standing at the yarn line and taking a big step. As the child stands in place, hand him or her a piece of masking tape. Child marks place where his or her foot landed with tape. Using a marker, child writes his or her name or initials on tape (assist children as needed).

2. For the next round, each child stands at the yarn line and jumps as far as possible with both feet together. Child marks position with another masking-tape piece and writes his or her name or initials on the tape. (Note: Remove tape immediately after activity.) Children repeat jumping as long as they are interested.

Talk About

In today's Bible story a man's legs didn't work at all. Two of Jesus' friends helped the man. God made the man's legs work, so he could walk. Now the man could walk and jump! Let's see how big a step and how big a jump you can make.

The Bible says, "Hear the word of God and obey it." The Bible is God's Word. God has given us special rules to obey. One thing God tells us to do is help others. Brianna, what is a way you can help Mikey at the Block Center today?

It's not always easy to obey. Emily, when are times it might be hard to obey? We can ask God for His help. Pray briefly, Dear God, help us to obey, even when it's hard.

For Younger Children
Instead of marking their steps and jumps, lead younger children in a game of Follow the Leader, walking in a variety of ways (clapping hands, tiptoeing, etc.). Be sure to keep motions simple.

For Older Children
Children use measuring sticks to measure the length of their steps and jumps.
Listen to Learn
Acts 3:1-16

Collect
Bible, Bible Story 44 pictures from God’s Story for Me Poster Pack #1, Preschool Music #1 CD and player.

Greet Each Other
Children form pairs. Pairs stand facing each other a few feet apart. It’s fun to do things with friends. Let’s use our bodies as we sing this song. Play “The Wiggle Song” (track 18 on CD). Lead children in singing song and doing motions as suggested by the words in the song.

Tell the Story
Open your Bible to Acts 3. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 44 pictures.

Which do you like better—jumping or running? Listen to find out what happened to a man who couldn’t jump or run.

Near the gate outside the Temple sat a man who couldn’t walk. His legs were lame. That means they didn’t work. He couldn’t even stand up. Every day this man’s friends carried him up the hill to the Temple gate. The Temple was the place where many people went to pray and learn about God. Every day the lame man sat by the Temple. As people walked into the Temple, the man would ask them for money.

One day Jesus’ friends, Peter and John, walked up the hill to the Temple. Peter and John heard someone call, “Please give me some money.” They stopped. They looked down. They saw the lame man sitting on the ground.

“I have no money,” Peter said, “but I do have something to give you.” Peter reached out and took the man’s hand. Peter said, “In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk!” and pulled the man to his feet.

Suddenly, the lame man’s feet and legs were strong! The man began to walk! Then the man began to skip and jump and hop and RUN! He was so happy! He went into the Temple with Peter and John. The man told everyone what happened. “Thank You, God! I can walk,” said the man.

The people at the Temple saw the man walking. They thought Peter and John had made the man walk. But Peter told them, “We did not make this man walk. Jesus made his legs strong.” Peter told all those people about Jesus. And the man who now could walk learned about Jesus, too.
Talk About the Story
Who helped the lame man? (Jesus. Peter. John.) We can help others, too! When we help others, we are obeying God! How can you help your mom at dinnertime? (Put napkins on the table. Wash my hands.) How can you help your dad when you go to the store? (Stay close to him. Obey what he says.)

Sing to God
Let’s sing a song about obeying God’s Word, the Bible. Lead children in singing “Hear the Word” (track 9 on CD). When we listen to the Bible, we listen to God’s Word. When we obey the Bible, we obey God!

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to Luke 11:28, say verse aloud. The Bible is God’s Word. We know the verses we say and stories we hear at church are true because they come from _________. Pause to let children complete the sentence with the words “the Bible.” Then lead children in repeating the verse in this manner: The boys say “Hear the word of God,” and then the girls say “and obey it.” Children repeat the verse in this manner several times, alternating which group says the phrases.

Option: To make the Bible verse activity more challenging for older children, ask a volunteer to repeat verse, pointing to another child and adding the child’s name to the beginning of the verse. Marcel, hear the word of God and obey it. The named child then repeats verse, pointing to and naming another child. Continue until each child has a turn.

Pray to God
Ask children to think of the name of someone they want to help. As you call each child’s name, he or she names the person and completes the following prayer: Dear God, thank You for Your Word, the Bible. Help us to help others. Seth wants to help _________. Repeat for each child.

Praise to God
Say the words of the verse aloud. I’m glad God gives us His Word, the Bible. Let’s play a listening game to help us remember these words. One volunteer closes eyes while you or a child places a Bible somewhere in the classroom. As volunteer moves around classroom, lead children to repeat verse louder as volunteer moves closer to Bible and repeat verse softer as he or she moves away. After volunteer finds the Bible, repeat activity with new volunteers as time allows.
Talk to Learn

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect
A copy of Activity 44 from The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers; optional—happy-face stickers.

Do
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children attach happy-face stickers to Scene 2.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect
Copies of Puzzles 61 and 62 (p. 129 and p. 131 from The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do
Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect
A copy of Story Picture 31 from The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1 for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do
Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.