

**Icebreaker:**

When was a time you found yourself without money? Did you have to ask for help to pay for something?

**Read and discuss:**

1. Read Acts 2:42-47 with your group as a lead-in to Acts 3. What stands out to you in this passage about the earliest church?
2. Peter and John look at the man and say, "Look at us!" Why does this matter in the story? What is important about eye contact?
3. Is there a part of your life that is disabled - physical, emotional or spiritual? Is Jesus bringing you some healing?
4. Why is it that God only heals some people in scripture? Does God still heal today? If God does heal today, why does God heal some and not others?
5. It was important for Peter, John, and the disabled man to see each other face to face. How important is it to your faith to be physically present with others?
6. What is one way this week you can help bring healing to someone?

**Prayer:**

As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

- > Prayers of healing for Jan Eads
- > Pray for the Men's Great Banquet happening this weekend and for the Women's Great Banquet happening next weekend at ZPC.

**Info for your group:**

>Sign up to decorate your car for Trunk or Treat, Oct 29 at ZPC.

**Leader's Notes:**

The story of the early church is exciting and ever changing. After Peter's speech (last week), the early church grows fast and shares life together in a radical way. Peter affirms in Acts 2:19, 2:22, and 2:43 that Jesus will still bring about signs and wonders. In Acts 3, Jesus brings about healing through Peter when he tells a disabled man to walk, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Often times older saints we know today, who've been Christians for decades, are still incredibly passionate and dedicated. It is because they've never lost seeing with wonder what Jesus can do. Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. He healed then and he can heal what hurts us even today – whether physical, emotional, or spiritual.

**[Question 1]** We have studied this passage often at ZPC. It outlines what happened in the early church, the sharing of food, possessions, meeting together, seeing signs and wonders, praising God together. Through these faithful actions, the earliest Christians build community, are commissioned to do God's work, and share communion with Christ.

**[Question 2]** Eye contact matters. It helps us speak and listen more carefully. We often tell our children (and each other) to make eye contact and get your eyes off of your phone, tablet, or TV. Eye contact shows value. Peter and John valued this man who had probably lost hope that life would ever get better. They look at him intently and Peter took him by the hand. He mattered to God and to Peter and John.

**[Question 3]** We sometimes only pray for someone when they are sick, having surgery, or even dying. We do this sometimes in worship as well. We need to ask God to help bring healing to our emotions, our relationships, our friendships, our heartaches, and our losses. We need God to change and shape our hearts to be more open to him so that we may be healed from our struggles and draw near to God.

**[Question 4]** This is a difficult question without easy answers. Jesus heals in the gospels and we see healing in Acts, in some cases, not all. We see Jesus heal when he is asked directly. Yet not everyone who was sick in the Bible is healed. Even today, people we know and love die after we ask God to heal them. The ultimate healing is eternal life with God. The Bible says our bodies will be made new. God chooses to heal some here on earth (temporarily because they too will die someday). The healing on earth can be used to bring praise to God through that person's life. God does still heal today as God chooses – sometimes physical, emotional, and spiritual healing; and sometimes the ultimate physical healing comes after this life on earth ends.

**[Question 5]** We can learn and worship online, through reading books, or listening to music by ourselves. But we are called to be in community together. Most of Paul's letters are written to church communities. We might read them to ourselves, but many of them are meant to be read to lift each other up. Even those of us who are quieter long to be in relationship and need each other to be whole. Physical presence is important that we might serve one another. Two are stronger than one, and a cord of three strands is not easily broken.

**[Question 6]** Encourage your group to live this out this week. How can each person participate with the Holy Spirit in bringing healing to someone – physical, emotional, or spiritual? We plan on asking next week, how each group and each person accomplished this.