



theme: Community – Acts 3 – Miracles and Access

materials: Bibles

The theme for this month's cell talks is community. We will be looking at the early Christian community in the book of Acts to shed light on what it means to be a Kingdom of God community now.

welcome

Have you ever felt incredibly unwelcome anywhere? How did you deal with that? How do you make sure that your home, your cell, your church is a welcoming place for everybody?

interact

Read Acts 3:1-6

What has God given to you to give to others in your community? Peter and John didn't have money, but they did have the Holy Spirit of God and the power to pray for healing. What has God given to you that you can share right now in your cell group? Is there anyone with a song to sing? Anyone with a word of encouragement? Is there anyone who is sick or injured that someone can pray for?

Use these gifts that God has given to you, and by so doing honour His name.

read

Read Acts 3:7-26.

A disability can make life very difficult in these days, but what do you think life would be like for a person who was disabled in first century Palestine? In particular, do you know what a disabled person at that time would be prevented from doing?

What did the healing mean for the beggar? What would he now be able to do? (In fact, he does this right away in verse 8)?

Have you ever responded to a person asking for money in this way? What is your normal response? Why do you respond in the way you do?

Why did Peter and John respond as they did? Is your community/cell/church one in which people find healing?

Not even necessarily physical healing, but is it a place where people's physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds are cared for?

Is your community/cell/church a place where wounded people are seen and welcomed in? Or are wounds and weaknesses hidden?

How does Peter link this healing with Jesus?

How do you suspect the religious authorities will react to this healing and this sermon?

think

What are the obstacles for people coming to your cell group? What are three practical ways you can make your cell more welcoming and accessible to people (without compromising on the truth of the gospel)? Act on these, and invite people for next week.



live & pray

It says in verse 12 that Peter saw and took the opportunity to preach about Jesus. How many opportunities do you have every day to tell someone about Jesus? Do you take those opportunities? If not, why not? Write down a list of the times in the past week when you could have shared the gospel, or spoken to someone about the love of Jesus. Prepare yourself this week to take advantage of at least 2 or 3 of those opportunities, and share how it went next week at cell.

useful resources

Book: *From Brokenness to Community*, by Jean Vanier

Website: www.nbc.com/heroes/ – a group of individuals who receive unexpected powers for a greater purpose.

leader's guide

Life would be difficult in any kind of society if you were born lame. The situation for the lame beggar, however, was that he was not allowed to enter the Temple because of his disability. Only those of sound body could enter in, so he was excluded from the community of faith.

By healing him, Jesus (through Peter) was restoring this lame beggar not only to fullness of physical health, but also to the fullness of spiritual community. He immediately enters the Temple (for the first time in his life, presumably) but through the apostles he has already come into the presence of God.

Peter and John must have responded as they did because they could not turn away, they had seen Jesus healing people, and they knew His Spirit now dwelt within them. Jesus had promised them that they would do even greater things than He had done. So they responded in love and with confidence, giving of what they had received from the Lord.

Peter takes the opportunity to talk once again about Jesus, explaining how the one who had been rejected was now bringing healing and restoration to others who had been rejected.