



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Five

In week five of the And They Prayed series, we studied the story of the lame man who begged at the gates of the Temple. After an encounter with Jesus' disciples, he was healed and able to leap and praise God! We believe in miracles. There is power in the name of Jesus that can lead to healing. Prayer is at the center of that possibility.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this or your own prayer.

*O God,
there are times when I feel like a beggar sitting outside of your church.
I can feel close and far away at the same time.
There are times when I walk right by a person who is in need of a miracle.
I can be unaware and selfish.
There are times when I try to fix someones' problems with my own strength.
My power is not enough.
Help me God to seek you in prayer, so that I might see your healing power at work through me.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: ACTS 3.1-8

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and

ankles became strong.⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

- The pattern for Peter and John was to pray in the temple at 3:00 PM. If they hadn't been faithful in that pattern, this encounter with the lame man would not have happened in the way that it did. What are the patterns of prayer that keep you open to opportunities for healing?
- *Ask God for help in developing a consistent pattern of prayer. Set a daily reminder or invite a friend to pray with you at a particular time of prayer.*

TUESDAY: ACTS 3.3-5

When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

- Peter and John both looked in the beggar's eyes. They saw him. They invited him to raise his head. They got his attention. We often go through our day feeling unseen whether we realize it or not. After a season of covering our faces with masks that can seem especially true. But how do you respond when someone looks directly at you? Do you look away? Are you surprised?
- *Pray for genuine interactions where you see and are seen so that you might be healed.*

WEDNESDAY: ACTS 3.6-7

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

- When I imagine myself in this situation I see myself running through the typical excuses. "I don't have any cash on me." "I've got an appointment." I pat my empty pockets and walk on. Peter starts off with the same claim of not having what he has been asked for. But then he reveals what he *does* have. He has the name of Jesus. And in the name of Jesus, healing is possible. What would you have to give up in order to share Jesus?
- *Pray with boldness for opportunities to share the healing power of Jesus with others today.*

THURSDAY: ACTS 3.7-8

Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

- In a few short moments the man went from seeking money to leaping for joy. He received what he didn't even know was possible. While he was praising God, do you think he felt short-changed because he didn't receive money from Peter and John? They gave of what they had, and what they had was far better than what he asked for. Have you ever experienced an outcome that far exceeded your hopes and dreams?
- *Ask God for what you need, but remain open to the possibility of an even better outcome.*

FRIDAY: PHILIPPIANS 4.6-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- I imagine these words as a follow up to the story of the healing of the lame beggar in Acts 3. That story resulted in rejoicing. If that same man, later in life, found himself anxious about anything, he could be drawn back to rejoicing. In that pattern of trusting God he could find peace. Is that true for you? What draws you back to rejoicing?
- *Pray verse 7. The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.*

SATURDAY: NUMBERS 6.22-27

The Lord said to Moses,²³ "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

²⁴ "'The Lord bless you

and keep you;

²⁵ the Lord make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you

and give you peace.'"

²⁷ "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

- The blessing of God is meant to be passed down from generation to generation. Peter and John had received the blessing of God and that's how they were able to share it with the lame man in Acts 3. The healing power of Jesus Christ does not end when a lame man walks, or broken relationship is mended. The healing power of Jesus Christ moves through the lives of those who have experienced it.
- *Thank God for the kinds of healing you have experienced. Through prayer, cultivate an awareness of how it moves through you.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob shared a story of a young man who was paralyzed after a car accident. A man who was never supposed to walk again will be walking down the aisle at his own wedding soon. Where have you seen the healing power of Jesus Christ? Where are you in need of a miracle?