





LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

TEXT: Acts 3:1–10

MAIN IDEA: God gives us the joyful task of reaching people with Jesus, and we should care about doing it well.

LEADERS:

- College-ish is underway! If you are a young adult, age 18–25, looking to connect and grow in the Lord this summer, then stop by the Totowa campus on Monday nights from 7–8:30. Doors open at 6:30—come early to hang! College-ish will run from May 30–July 4.
- Summer Sessions is around the corner! Two evening classes will be on offer. The first is an indepth walk through the book of Ruth with Donna Aust, and the second is called "I've Got Questions," which will be taught by Doug Becker and Walt Windish and will address some of the big head scratchers that are important for understanding our faith. These will be held on Thursday evenings at our Totowa campus from June 30 to August 4. More details to come.
- August I-5 is Student Life camp—yes!!! All students who have completed sixth grade and up are
 invited. This year we'll be at Tuscarora Conference Center in Bethel, PA. Please be praying for our
 students and their leaders, and be sure to tell anyone you know with kids in this age range.

GETTING STARTED:

- Watch this week's Community Extras Video.
- **Icebreaker:** What's one thing you can do to stay connected with your group over the summer?
- Opener: What stood out for you most from the sermon this week?

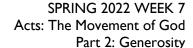
This week at church was child dedication, where young families and the church commit to partnering in raising the children whom God has blessed us with so that they will know and love Jesus. In keeping with this emphasis, Ryan observed three things from Acts 3:I–I0 that parents should mirror in raising their children—they need to bring them to church; they need to give them Jesus; and they need to model joy. As we dive into this passage, we are going to broaden the application to how we interact, not just with our kids, but with everyone in our lives who needs to know the Lord.

BRING THEM TO CHURCH

Read Acts 3:1.

We saw in Acts 2:46 that attendance at the temple was part of the early Christians' daily routine, alongside close fellowship in each other's homes. "The ninth hour"—three in the afternoon—was one of two important daily prayer times in the Jerusalem temple, the other being at 9 am.

Why did Peter and John (and the other Christians) still see themselves as connected to temple worship? Didn't Jesus do away with all that stuff?





In Matthew 6:5–6, Jesus tells us that we should pray in secret, so as not to draw attention to ourselves. Yet here, we see the Apostles going into the temple to pray alongside others. Clearly, both are part of a healthy prayer life. What are some reasons why Christians should engage in public prayer with one another in a way that complements a vibrant private prayer life?

In the sermon, Ryan mentioned that bringing kids to church gives us three benefits: a supporting voice, exposure to truth, and supportive ministries. Let's consider each of these in the context of inviting unbelieving friends to church.

Supporting Voices

When a person walks into a gospel-believing, Bible-preaching church, they encounter many people united around the same message. Why might it be necessary for someone you are trying to reach to hear the message from other people in addition to you?

© Exposure to Truth

How is the truth that someone might hear at church different than the truth you might share one-on-one?

© Supportive Ministries

People often need ministries that are specifically geared towards where they are in life. What are some ministries that God used to bless you and to enable you to grow in him?

GIVE THEM JESUS

Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus healed several lame people (Matt 11:5; 15:30–31; 18:8; 21:14; Mark 9:45; Luke 7:22; 14:13, 21; John 5:3).

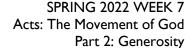
Read Acts 3:2-6.

The lame man was lying at the temple gate, asking alms of everyone, but Peter purposely drew his attention. In other words, the man didn't corner Peter, as sometimes happens with people begging for money; rather, Peter approached him. With whom in your life do you need to take the initiative in order to reach them with the gospel, and what might this look like?

In the sermon, Ryan distinguished between our felt needs (which are real and important) and our ultimate need for Jesus. Why is the meeting of felt needs often a crucial step in communicating the gospel?

When we meet people's felt needs, why is it important to make explicit that it is being done, as Peter says, "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth"?

Share about a time when God used you to give someone Jesus.





MODEL JOY

Read Acts 3:7-10.

Luke, the author of Acts, emphasizes the exuberance that was felt by this hopeless man having been given a new life by the power of lesus. He doesn't just get up, he "leaps up." He doesn't just walk into the temple with Peter and John, he does so "leaping and praising God." And his joy is recognized publicly.

- Why is displaying joy an important part of worshipping God?
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- What is the difference between joy that honors the Lord and joy that does not?
- Sometimes, joy is automatic. But often, it is not. What can you do to cultivate your joy in the Lord, especially when you don't feel like it, and especially when you have other things in your life that suck the joy out of it?

PRAYER TIME

Pray for the children who were dedicated to the Lord this Sunday, and for their families' faithfulness in raising them to know lesus.

Pray for the children's and youth ministries at our church.

Pray that the Lord would help you to walk in boldness, and that he would enable you to invite your friends and family to church, to give them Jesus, and to model joy.