

Life Group Guide

Acts 3:1-9 | "A Providential Encounter"

Series: King Over His Church

Context and Overview

This passage opens with Peter and John heading to the temple for prayer — a routine act of obedience — when God orchestrates a divine appointment with a man who has been lame from birth. Through this encounter, Luke shows us that Jesus displays his compassion and power through his people, and that God purposely places his people where they are for his glory and the good of others.

Key Takeaways

- Ordinary obedience puts us in position for extraordinary moments.
- God's divine appointments often come while we are on our way to something else.
- Compassion and spiritual disciplines belong together in the Christian life — they are not separate.
- The miracle points beyond itself to Jesus, whose authority and power are the only explanation for what happened.
- Admiration of what God does is not the same as faith in who God is.
- The greatest miracle is not physical healing — it is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on behalf of sinners.
- God intentionally places his people in specific locations, relationships, and circumstances to shine through them.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Think about a time when an interruption to your plans turned out to be something significant. What happened, and how did you respond in the moment?
2. The pastor asked whether we would notice a divine appointment if it came while we were on our way somewhere else. How would you honestly answer that question about your own life right now?

Digging Into the Text

3. Peter and John were on their way to pray when they encountered the lame man. What does it tell us about the relationship between spiritual discipline and outward compassion that this moment happened

precisely in the middle of their ordinary obedience?

4. The lame man had been carried to the same gate every single day, asking the same request of everyone who passed by. He expected money from Peter and John. What does it reveal about God's character that what Jesus provided through Peter was infinitely beyond what the man thought to ask for?
5. Peter said he had no silver or gold, but gave what he did have — healing in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. What does this tell us about what we actually have to offer people around us, and where the power behind that offering comes from?
6. The pastor referenced Isaiah 35:6, where God promised long ago that the lame would leap like a deer. Why is it significant that Luke draws our attention to this fulfillment? What does it tell us about who Jesus is?

7. The crowd responded with wonder and amazement, but the pastor made a distinction between admiration and faith. What is the difference, and why does that distinction matter?

Personal Reflection and Application

8. The pastor listed several examples of people who might be overlooked: the student who gets bullied, the coworker buried under stress, the lonely neighbor, even a child at home. Which of these resonates most with your current season of life? Who might God be calling your attention to right now?

9. The pastor said, "Where you go, where you live, what you do, where God has you is not a coincidence." How does believing that truth change the way you approach your Monday through Saturday?

10. The lame man's response to being healed was to walk, leap, and praise God. When

was the last time something God did in your life genuinely made you excited? What would it look like to not get over what God has done for you?

11. The pastor challenged believers to ask God to place someone specific on their path this week. What holds you back from praying that kind of prayer? What would it take for you to pray it anyway?

Practical Applications for This Week

- Write down the name of one person God may be placing on your heart — a coworker, neighbor, classmate, or family member. Commit to praying for that person by name every day this week.
- Identify one simple, low-stakes step you can take toward that person this week: a text, a cup of coffee, a genuine question about how they are really doing.
- Reflect on your own spiritual disciplines. Are prayer, Scripture reading, and

compassion connected in your daily life, or have they become compartmentalized? Ask God to integrate them.

- Take time this week to praise God specifically for something he has done in your life. Do not rush past it. Let it move you the way the lame man's healing moved him.
- If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, consider that the miracle in this passage is meant to point you toward him. The greatest miracle is not what happened to the lame man's legs — it is what Jesus accomplished on the cross and through his resurrection on your behalf. Talk to your group leader or pastor about what it means to trust him.

Closing Prayer Prompts

Close your time together by praying through these areas as a group:

- Pray for eyes to see the people God has placed around you.
- Pray for the courage to slow down and engage rather than pass by.
- Pray for specific people each group member named during discussion.
- Thank God for the miracle of the gospel and ask him to keep it from becoming ordinary to you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to move in your group the way he moved through Peter and John — not because of your own ability, but because of the authority of Jesus.