
CHURCH ON THE MOVE

Acts 3:1-16

BIG IDEA

Our mission is to eagerly raise the dignity of everyone we encounter--knowing that true dignity is found only in repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

INTRO TO THE FAMILY GUIDE

Thank you for opening this guide. We are glad that you've decided to continue the conversation. Below you will find discussion questions geared toward adults and families. Whatever unit you are in, we would love for you to interact with each other and dig deeper into what we learned today. If you are alone, feel free to pick up the phone to call, text, or digitally interact with a friend on these questions.

The age-based questions for families cover 4 different stages of life—preschoolers, elementary students, middle schoolers, and teens. Parents, it's always awesome to model vulnerability with your children, so, even though each section does not specifically invite parents to share please do so.

SUMMARY FOR THIS WEEK

The beggar in Acts 3 is 40 years old and he is carried there daily to beg for money. The text tells us that he wasn't looking at Peter? Why? He has faced daily humiliation for 40 years. Imagine the number of people who would either not look at him or look down on him. The toll this took on his soul is immense. It's hard to look someone in the eye when we feel shame--shame that lessens our humanity. Peter and John "raise his dignity" by looking at him and by focusing him on his deepest need. Money is not the beggars deepest need. What he really needs is Christ.

Think of us now with social distancing. We have desires that we used to take for granted. We want to see each other etc. Yet our deeper need is to feel safe, to be secure and to flourish. This leads us ultimately to our deepest need for security in Christ.

PRESCHOOL

1. Remember the man in our story was lame which means he couldn't walk. Imagine not being able to walk for 40 years! How would you feel if you were finally able to walk after not being able to your whole life?
2. Peter and John showed the lame man that he was important to them and to Jesus by looking him in the eyes. How can you show someone that they are important to you this week?
3. Grab a piece of paper and something you can draw with like markers or crayons. Draw a picture of what you're going to do this week to show someone they matter to you.

ELEMENTARY

1. Remember the man in our story was lame which means he couldn't walk. Imagine not being able to walk for 40 years! How would you feel if you were finally able to walk after not being able to your whole life?
2. Peter and John showed the lame man that he was important to them and to Jesus by looking him in the eyes. How can you show someone that they are important to you this week?
3. Grab a piece of paper and something you can draw with like markers or crayons. Draw a picture of what you're going to do this week to show someone they matter to you.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. We know our heart is pierced when we have a heart for others. Share with a friend or your family who you have a "pierced heart" for.
2. When Peter and John found the lame man begging, they could've walked right past him. They could've healed him and been on their way. Instead, they looked into the man's eyes. This action offered the man dignity and showed him that he

had value. What are a few ways you can let the people in your circle of influence (the people around you) know that they have value this week?

3. Write down 2-3 actions you are going to take this week to show others that you value them. Put your list in a place where you will see it often as a reminder to reach out to those people. Pray and ask God to help you have a continually pierced heart toward others.

HIGH SCHOOL

1. There are two unhealthy ways we can view our personal sin. The first unhealthy way is to put our sins in front of us and become blocked by this view. The second unhealthy way to view sin is to put it behind us and forget we are sinners. The healthy view of sin is having a pierced heart over our sin which makes our sin peripheral (we can see it only in the corner of our eyes). This means we don't forget our sin but we are not blocked by it. Our focus is on the cross. Which one of these three options do you tend to live in the most? Why did you give that answer? What helps you move toward the healthy view of your sin?
2. We know our heart is pierced when we have a heart for others. Share with a friend or your family who you have a "pierced heart" for. It could be someone who does not know Christ, or it could be someone who is going through physical or relational suffering, addiction, or unemployment.
3. If we have an unhealthy way of viewing sin it can block us from having a pierced heart for others. This week, take action toward viewing sin from a healthy peripheral perspective so that you can dive into having a pierced heart for others. Take time now to pray and reflect on how you've viewed your sin in the past and ask God to help you grow and take on a peripheral view of your sin. Write down one thing that comes to mind when considering how you can move toward viewing sin from a healthy perspective. Then ask God to open your heart and your eyes to others so you can have a pierced heart for those around you. Pick two things you can do to give dignity to those around you this week. This could be listening to their opinions without interrupting, giving up your time or energy to help them in some way, or any other idea that might come to mind. Ask God to help you represent His church on the move this week through your actions.

Adults

1. We know our heart is pierced when we have a heart for others. Share with a friend or your family who you have a "pierced heart" for. It could be someone who does

not know Christ, it could be someone who is going through physical or relational suffering or addiction or unemployment. Next share who your heart may need to be pierced for (take some time to pray or to be quiet and reflect and see who the Holy Spirit may bring to mind). Express gratitude to God together for where your heart is pierced for others and together ask God to continue His “piercing work” wherever He makes that known to you

2. There are two unhealthy ways we can view our personal sin and one healthy way. The first unhealthy way is to put our sins in front of us and we are blocked. We say or think things like, “If you knew who I was, God, you wouldn’t want me in your church.” In effect we are saying our sin is bigger than the cross and the resurrection of Christ. The second unhealthy way to view sin is to put behind us in a way that we forget we are sinners and we become proud. We imagine we are close to God because of our “good behavior” and we begin to judge other people. The third way to view our sin is healthy. The healthy view of sin is having a pierced heart over our sin and therefore our sin is peripheral. This means we don’t forget our sin but we are not blocked by it. Our focus is on the cross. So, instead of revenge against you when you sin against me I recall my sin and now I can humbly forgive you and love you. Which one of these three options do you tend to live in the most? If you have had good movement toward a healthy view of sin share what has helped you get that traction. Also, share what tends to take you toward the unhealthy views of your sin.