



**LC STUDY GUIDE**  
**For the Good of the World**  
 The Passage: Acts 3:1-16  
 June 5 – June 18

**Introduction:**

As we reach the conclusion of the ministry year, we reflect on the nature of thriving. Today we see that in order to experience goodness and thriving in our hearts, in our homes, in our communities, and in every facet of life, we have to allow the Holy Spirit to lead our lives.

**Acts 3:1-16**

<sup>1</sup> One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. <sup>4</sup> Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” <sup>5</sup> So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

<sup>6</sup> 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.” <sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. <sup>8</sup> He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> When all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

<sup>11</sup> While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.”

**O** – Let’s reread the first 10 verses and pick out some of the details we may have missed the first time. What jumps out at you as interesting?

**I** – Considering the likely probability that Peter and John saw this man regularly, why do you think they stopped and interacted with him that day? It’s not an answer that we can

objectively “know” but what lessons can we glean from this?

*(One thing we can learn is that on any given hour on any ordinary day, God can perform a miraculous work through His followers. Second, we can see an unfolding theological narrative from the timing of Luke’s inclusion of this story. He places this story after the experience of Pentecost. While some time has passed, Luke wants his readers to grasp the power of the Holy Spirit – this is a new reality.)*

**A** – At first glance, we might be intimidated when we consider how we might apply this passage to our lives but let’s break it down for our own personal application:

- When Peter says, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have, I give you in the name of Jesus ...” what comes to our minds of what we can bring in the name of Jesus? Consider both the seemingly ordinary and the miraculous in the name of God. An example could be the gift of friendship to a person experiencing loneliness and the blessing of community.

- What are the needs we see on an ordinary daily basis? Consider the physical, material, emotional and spiritual needs we encounter.

**O** – Upon seeing a crowd forming at the sight of this man’s healing and celebration, Peter gives a short speech. What do you notice in verses 11-16?

**I** – Peter insists that this power is not his own but from Jesus, the same Jesus they rejected. Why do you think Peter gives a quick sermon here?

*(At first glance, one might think Peter is rubbing it in, but in truth, he’s offering the witnesses clarity on what just happened. The same God they rejected in the revelation of Jesus is alive and at work and they can follow him today.)*

**A** – What might we pray for individually and collectively as we seek lives of thriving and goodness, led by the power of the Holy Spirit?

*(Examples might include: courage, to be faithful with the opportunity, to give the Lord the glory in praise-worthy moments.)*

- a. Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting. Take some time to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best. Select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
- b. Complement these questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?)
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage participation. Avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Application: Pace the study to conclude with difference-making application.
- e. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching” rather than facilitating, causing people to feel distracted or de-powered.