



# Brown Community Group

## Discussion Guide

Go Therefore: Acts 3:1-4:4 – January 31, 2021

### I. Starter Questions:

Have you ever witnessed something that you could not explain? Have you ever prayed for a miracle or something that you could not provide in your life, your family or friend? What has been your experience with these types of situations? Are you a doubting Thomas that must be there and see to believe? God uses a variety of situations, some extraordinary and some very common, to further his plan and demonstrate His power. Are we watching and listening?

### II. Scripture:

#### Context:

The church has been formed and we've seen the devotion of these early Christians to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. They were in awe of the Lord's many signs and wonders among them, they shared all that they had with each other, they praised God together, and the Lord continued to bring others to faith through their witness.

Today, we read a story of one specific sign the Lord used to bring awe and salvation to the Israelites when he healed a man who was lame from birth. God used this healing to provide an opportunity for Peter to share the gospel as he did in chapter 2, and once again through his witness many were saved and brought into the church.

#### Acts 3:1-4:4:

***<sup>1</sup> Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup> Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. <sup>4</sup> And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup> And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.***

***<sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of***

*Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?<sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.<sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,<sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.<sup>16</sup> And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.*

*<sup>17</sup> “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.<sup>18</sup> But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,<sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,<sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.<sup>22</sup> Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.<sup>23</sup> And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’<sup>24</sup> And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.<sup>25</sup> You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’<sup>26</sup> God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”<sup>1</sup> And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,<sup>2</sup> greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.<sup>3</sup> And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.<sup>4</sup> But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.<sup>5</sup> On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem,*

### III. Group Questions

1. In reviewing the miraculous healing of the lame man in verses 1-8, now read verse 16 again and discuss what it was that actually healed the man? Whose faith restored the man? Can you personally have a miracle in your life without believing, but others do that pray for you?
2. How long had the lame man asked for alms at the Beautiful Gate? What would be your conclusion for the number of people who knew him directly or were aware of him?
3. After the lame man was miraculously healed, what was his immediate and direct response? Try and describe to us the lame man’s feelings and thoughts?
4. Why might God have used this man to share a miracle with the people to prove Jesus power?
5. What was the response of the people to this miracle?

6. Do you believe that this type of miraculous healing takes place today? Why or why not? Does anyone have a specific example that they would like to share?
7. In verses 12-13, what was Peter's main point being made?
8. Comment on Verse 17-18 in the context of Psalm 22:1-21 and Isaiah 53:1-12; How is Peter suggesting that the Israelites should interpret these OT scriptures?
9. What specific things does Peter say must be done before anyone will be able to have the "refreshing spirit of the Lord" in their lives?
10. According to verses 22-23, what is the cost of refusing to listen to Jesus?
11. According to verse 24-26, how does Peter instruct us to understand the Old Testament prophets?

#### IV. **Responding in Prayer:**

- Pray that God would provide opportunities for us to share the gospel with the lost and that we might do so with confidence and boldness.
- Thank God for his Son Christ whom he promised would come to suffer and die in our place through his holy prophets long ago. Thank Jesus for his sacrifice to blot out our sins and the certain hope that he will one day restore all things.
- Pray that God would help us to have such confidence in the gospel that we are humble enough to recognize our sin and quick to repent.