

**Note:** As you will discover, the two major characters in Acts are Peter and Paul. Peter's ministry is carried out mostly in Galilee, Judah, and Jerusalem. Paul preaches mainly outside Israel, in Asia Minor (today's Turkey), Greece, and Italy. Most of Peter's flock are Jews. Most of Paul's converts to Christianity are non-Jews. Peter's ministry is under scrutiny by fellow Jewish converts. Paul's ministry is under scrutiny by synagogue leaders in foreign lands. Like chapter 1, this chapter also focuses on Peter. (See Handout on Peter)

1. Peter and John came to the temple daily at the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.) to attend prayer service. Do you think that after Pentecost the apostles still consider themselves faithful Jews? (Acts 3:1)
2. How was the crippled man healed, and how did others in the crowd react? (Acts 3:2-9)
3. *Challenge:* In addition to his joy at being able to walk, why do you think the lame man was so joyful about entering the temple? (Lev 21:16-23)
4. *Reflection:* Peter and John stopped and looked directly at the lame man they had likely passed many times before. Who are the "overlooked" people in your daily routine whom you might tend to avoid or look past?
5. Peter said to the lame man, "What I do have I give you." What are some of the material or psychological gifts or blessings we possess that God wants us to bring to others?
6. Apparently, the healing of the lame man was the first public miracle Peter performed, and he used the miracle as a teaching moment.
  - a. How did Peter disown any claim to having healed the man by his "own power or piety"? (Acts 3:12)
  - b. How does Peter clearly affirm his Jewish faith to his audience? (Acts 3:13)
  - c. How does Peter affirm his faith in the risen Jesus? (Acts 3:16)
7. Peter primarily spoke to a Jewish audience. What were some of the ways Peter referred to Jesus? (Acts 3:13, 14, 15, 22)
8. According to Peter, why did the Jewish people and their leaders put Jesus to death? (Acts 3:17)
9. What did Peter tell the people to do to atone for their murderous sin? (Acts 3:19-20)
10. *Reflection:* In this chapter, Luke presents Peter as a model of a Christian evangelizer. Are there any words, attitudes, or behaviors of Peter that we could imitate in our 21<sup>st</sup> century atmosphere?