

Bible background

Acts 3

Aim of lesson

To show that after his ascension Jesus helped his friends to carry on with his work.

Preparation required

Using sellotape for the edges, make all the hand puppets from the activity sheets. A picture of someone with crutches or in a wheelchair may help explain 'lame' and 'disabled'.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Use last week's rhyme to remind the class that Jesus, when he went to heaven, had given his special power to his disciples so that they could do miracles.
2. Tell the story about Peter and John healing the lame man. Show puppets for each character as you introduce them, handing each puppet to one of the children and carrying on with the story. The children can make their puppet do simple actions as the story progresses, e.g. the lame man can get up and leap about. Most of the puppets can just be held as a visual aid to your story.
3. After completing the story get the children to colour hair, eyes, face and clothes on their puppets to make them look different. You can then act the story again using the puppets. Allow the characters to say some of their own words this time. Include Peter answering the crowd by saying that it is the power of Jesus that has made the man well.
4. Teach the song 'Jesus is a good friend' (the alternative words to the song 'Can you be a good friend' in Lesson 90) and discuss how Jesus was a friend to Peter and John and is a good friend to us too.

Alternative activities

If you have a child with mobility difficulties in your class you will need to give careful thought to your choice of activities to ensure they are fully included.

1. If possible, get the children to look very carefully at their bare feet. Sit on the floor and try moving feet and ankles in different ways.
2. Play some action games that involve running, marching, jumping, hopping, skipping etc. You could try Simon says, Here we go round the Mulberry Bush, Follow the leader, Hokey Cokey etc. Talk about how the children needed to use their legs and feet to join in.
3. Circle Time: Talk about things we need our feet and legs for. How can we help people whose feet or legs don't work? If you have room, paint the soles of the children's feet and make footprints on a large sheet of paper/roll of wall paper. Have a bowl of water, soap and towel at the ready and remember to protect the floor! For a less messy option you can draw around their feet instead.
4. Draw or stick pictures cut from magazines, under the heading, 'Thank you God for legs so that I can....'
5. Build the temple courtyard and gate out of Lego, modelling clay or blocks. Use play figures, or make some from modelling clay, to retell the story.

Relevance to the children's lives

Do the children know anyone who is lame or disabled? How can they be kind to them or help them?

Prayer

Ask what the lame man might have prayed that night. Lead the children into saying their own prayers, thanking God that we can walk and that Jesus can help us too.

Verse

'The apostles performed many miracles, signs and wonders among the people.' Acts 5:12.