



Life-Giving People

Sunday Bible Study Guide | May 17, 2026

Weekly Memory Verse

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Psalm 40:1-3

Mixer

What is your natural response when you need help?

Scripture Reading

Acts 3:1-10; Matthew 27:46; Psalm 40:2; Ephesians 5:13-14; Isaiah 35:3-6

Sermon Recap & Prayer

Acts 3 shows us a man who was unable to walk and spent his life begging for food and money at the temple gates. Pastor Josh taught us how God's miraculous healing of this man through Peter and John invites us to see the difference between asking for "handout" from God versus a "hand up" from God. When our lives are centered on Christ, there is an openness to 1) reaching for God's help and transformation instead of trusting in ourselves, 2) spiritual awakening instead of earthly pleasures, and 3) a willingness to partner with God and change the direction of our lives.

Take time as a group to pray before your discussion and then read **Acts 3:1-10** aloud.

Discussion Questions

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. The participants in this story are 1) the lame man, 2) Peter and John, and 3) the people who witnessed the miraculous healing. What do you notice about each of them?

2. Why do you think Luke includes the detail of “his ankles became strong”? What other words or themes stand out to you?
3. Was there anything about the passage/message that didn’t make sense to you?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. What was the significance of the “ninth hour”? (Read **Matthew 27:46** for context). What connection do you see between death and transformation in the Christian life?
2. Pastor Josh defined shallow competency as someone who appears skilled on the surface but lacking deep experience, wisdom, and maturity. What are examples of a temporary, spiritual ‘fix’ in our lives and a life of co-laboring with God and seeking the transformation only He can give?

Application: How can we apply these passages to our lives?

1. What area of your life are you asking God to “help you out of” instead of leading you “through” it? In other words, what area of responsibility are you wanting to escape instead of letting God bring spiritual growth and maturity through it?
2. At the close of his message, Pastor Josh mentioned these phrases. Which one have you personally experienced in your relationship with God?
 - Grace before mastery
 - Identity before maturity
 - Calling before competency
 - Healing before understanding
3. Who in your life may need a “hand up” rather than quick advice?
4. What is one practical step you can take this week to help that person towards healing in Jesus?

Huddles

Break into small groups of 3-4 people of the same gender for deeper sharing, accountability, and prayer.

- Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on your group.
- Pray for specific areas where group members need God’s power.
- Pray for revival in your church, your city, and your generation.
- Pray that wherever you go this week, the power of God would be evident through you.

Go First With Us!

Women’s Summer Event | June 8

