

30. A Man Jumps for Joy



*Dwell Flex, Story Symbols, [www.dwellcurriculum.org](http://www.dwellcurriculum.org), © 2020, Faith Alive Christian Resources, [www.faithaliveresources.org](http://www.faithaliveresources.org)*

## 30

# A Man Jumps for Joy

**Leader Notes:**

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

*Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.*

**I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.**

## Breathe

*Use this time to focus your attention on God.*

**Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.** *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

## Tell and Wonder

**Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear?** *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

**Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.**

*Read "A Man Jumps for Joy" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.*

*You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.*

## Pray

*Close with the following prayer or pray in your own words.*

**Dear Jesus, we praise you for healing the man who couldn't walk. You healed his legs and you healed his heart. We praise you too because you heal us and you heal our hearts. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.**

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

## Respond

*Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #141\* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

*\*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org).*

## Easy Extra

*Retell the story with your group by acting out [this story drama](#). Ask for volunteers for the following parts: narrator, John, Peter, the man who couldn't walk, and four "crowd" people. If you have any kids who aren't reading yet, narrate the script for them and have them simply do the acting. Or have older children in your group read the parts while the younger children act things out.*

*If you're meeting virtually, have your group act the story out on screen. Encourage them to use big facial expressions and arm movements to show the feelings and actions of their character on screen. Consider recording your dramatization so your group can share it with their families.*

*If you're leading this session at home with a smaller group, you can do this activity with as little as three readers: Peter, the man, and the narrator. Take turns reading the crowd parts, imagining that members of the crowd are reading them.*

## Story: A Man Jumps for Joy [Acts 3:1-16](#)

*Read [Acts 3:1](#), and then lay the Bible on your lap and continue.*

Peter and John were just two of the many people who came to pray at the temple at 3:00 in the afternoon. Another person who always made sure he was at the temple at that time was a man who begged for money. Because the man couldn't walk, each day his friends would carry him over and set him down at the gate called "Beautiful."

Each day he'd call out, "Please help me! Help a poor man who can't walk. Please, sir—could you spare a few pennies? And you, over there, sir! How about a little money—it sure would help! Thank you, sir. Thank you!"

The people who came to the temple to pray probably saw this same man every day. **How many people do you think just looked the other way?** *(Pause for responses.)* **Imagine that you are the man who was begging. Describe how you feel when people won't look at you.** *(Pause for responses.)*

As Peter and John headed to the temple, they came near the man. When he saw Peter and John, he called out to them, just as he did to anyone who passed by: "Please, help me! Do you have a little money you could spare?"

Peter and John didn't ignore the man. They stopped and looked right at him and said, "Look at us, my friend. We don't have money—but we have something better to give you."

**What do you think they will give this man?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Then Peter leaned in and said, "In the name of Jesus, walk!"

Think about it—that man had never walked a step in his life. Imagine his face as he looked back at Peter.

**How do you think he looked?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Now imagine his surprise at what happened next: Peter reached down, grabbed him by the hand, and pulled him up. In an instant his feet and ankles were made strong! The man jumped up and started to walk.

Imagine this. Close your eyes. *(Wait for them to do it.)* The man had never used his legs. He didn't even know how to walk. **What would his first steps look like?** *(Pause for responses.)* **Now open your eyes and tell me—what do you think those first steps felt like to him?** *(Pause for responses.)*

After taking a few steps, the man started jumping up and down! **Have you ever felt so happy and excited that you just couldn't sit still?** *(Pause for responses.)* Maybe that's how this man felt on that incredible day.

The man moved his body—and then he burst out in praise. "Praise the Lord! My legs work. Look at me, everybody! Praise God! I can walk! Thank you, Jesus."

Everybody knew this man as the guy who had to beg at the temple gates. When they saw him jumping around and heard him praising God, they were absolutely amazed!

Imagine what they must have said:

"Hey, isn't that the same man who is always begging by the city gate?"

"Look at him. Can you believe it?"

"Listen to him praising God!"

"Did Peter and John make him well?"

"I doubt it. It must be Jesus. This man believes in Jesus. Listen to him."

"Yes, praise Jesus! Praise his name! Jesus' power has changed my life!"

**If you were watching and didn't know exactly what happened, what might you have said?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Peter watched the man, and he saw and heard the people who wondered about what had happened. Peter made sure they knew whose power had healed the man. "Why are you people so surprised?" said Peter.

"Why do you stare at us like that? We didn't heal this man. God did. This man was healed in Jesus' name and with faith in Jesus."

**Looking for More Activities for This Story?**

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Kindergarten-1st Grade: A Man Jumps for Joy](#)
  - [2nd-3rd Grade: A Man Jumps for Joy](#)
  - [4th-5th Grade: In the Name of Jesus](#)
-