

Everyday Opportunities

Acts 3:1-10

Opening questions:

- Are you someone who likes to plan ahead or do you like to be spontaneous?
- How do you feel when your plans get interrupted?

Looking at times that God asks us to do something with no warning - unforeseen opportunities that come up.

Acts 3:1-10 (NLT)

3 Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. **2** As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. **3** When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.

4 Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" **5** The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. **6** But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

7 Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. **8** He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

9 All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. **10** When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded!

Questions for discussion:

- Why do you think people so often find it difficult to speak about God or to take opportunities to serve others when they are unexpected?
- Peter and John were going to pray together and were part of a strong church community - in what ways can this help people to feel confident to take opportunities?
- In what ways can being in church help us discover our gifts? How have you been helped to develop and discover your gifts?

- It's probable that Peter and John had passed other beggars at different times but not seen them healed. What do you think the difference is here? *Try to get people to talk about recognising when God is at work - being sensitive to hearing him and then taking opportunities.*
- 'I'll give you what I have' - what is Luke drawing our attention to here? What did Peter have?
- How can we know what our gifts are?
- Ask people to talk about different types of gifts, and how they can help people in the church and how they can be used outside the church
- What areas do you feel God uses you most in? Ask people in the group to share and ask people to say what gifts they see in others in the group.
- Finish with prayer for God to increase gifting and give opportunities.