Acts 3 | Peter Heals a Lame Beggar
Acts 3:1-19; 4:1-4
Based on NLT

Transition (Based on Acts 2:43-47)
Each day, more and more people became followers of Jesus...and God continued to perform miracles* through his followers to show who Jesus was...

Acts 3:1-3
Peter and another of Jesus’ closest followers* went to the place of worship* one afternoon to pray. As they approached the place, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the entrance of the place of worship...so he could beg from the people going inside. When he saw Peter and his companion...he asked them for some money.

Acts 3:5-8
The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting a gift. But Peter said, “I don’t have any money for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus...get up and walk!” Then Peter took the lame man by the...hand and helped him up...The man...was healed...He jumped up...and began...walking, leaping, and praising God...

Acts 3:10
When all the people realized he was the lame beggar...they were absolutely astounded (that he had been healed)!

Acts 3:11-12, 16, 19
...The man was holding tightly to Peter and his companion...And Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd that had gathered...He said, “What is so surprising about this? And why look at us as though we had made this man walk because we have special powers or because we are so good before God? No, belief* in Jesus’ name has healed this man...Now turn from your sins* and turn to God...”

Acts 4:1-4
While Peter and his companion were speaking to the people, the religious leaders* came over to them. They were very disturbed that they were teaching about Jesus. These leaders arrested them and...put them in jail...But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so that the number of believers* totaled about five thousand men...
Why This Story?
This story has been used effectively in both *Purpose* and *Church Formation* themed story sets. In the *Purpose* story set, it shows the progression of Peter’s character. It also shows the beginnings of the persecution of believers.

Story Crafting
Peter
We chose to include Peter’s name in this story because he appears several times in the story set. Since John’s name does not appear often, we’ve left out his name for ease of retelling.

*(that he had been healed)*
You may add this portion in parentheses if you need to show cause for their amazement.

*we are so good before God*
‘Godliness’ may be a term unfamiliar to your audience. We have used ‘we are so good before God’ to express this concept in terms an oral communicator can better understand. Another way to express this concept is: ‘because we worship God so well.’ Peter’s message from Acts 3:12-26 is full of truths you may want to include in a story; however, the message does not move like a narrative and will be much more difficult to retell. You may choose to emphasize a different portion of Peter’s message, but it must be kept brief if you want your audience to remember and retell the story.

Words/Phrases to Consider
Miracles*
*Miracles, signs, and wonders* refer to powerful deeds; a happening that evokes awe; something that points to a truth beyond itself. Basically, all three words refer to similar things. Perhaps all three words were used to show that God does many miracles of different types.

Followers*
If the language has an understood term for the devoted followers of a guru, you may use that term here. We’ve designated the twelve disciples as ‘closest followers’ and the other disciples simply as ‘followers.’ You may want to differentiate between the two groups in the same way, as well.

Place of Worship*
If the word for ‘temple’ in your language refers only to a specific religion’s place of worship or is not a common word, you may choose to change the word to something more general, e.g. ‘place of worship.’

Belief*
This describes man’s response to God’s promise. It probably implies more than mental agreement, but putting one’s faith/confidence in God.

Religious Leaders*
Keep this term consistent throughout the stories. Even though in this passage the term is referring to the priests, the temple guards and the religious group that controlled the temple, the phrase ‘religious leaders’ is generic enough to include this group of people, as well as the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Believers*
After Pentecost, the people who followed Jesus were also called ‘believers.’ We’ve used that term in the story set to refer to Jesus’ followers after Pentecost and to emphasize the fact that people became followers of Jesus through belief in him.


**Sin**

Sin refers to an act of disobedience to God. Be sure that the word you use here does not mean that someone has failed to perform a religious act (i.e. alms, ritual prayer, following religious dietary rules, etc.). If necessary, you can use ‘disobedience.’

**Intra-Story Cohesion**

Use the same words or phrases you have been using throughout the story set for saved, miracles, closest followers/the Twelve, name of Jesus, praising God, belief/believe, Jesus’ name, turn from…turn to…, sins and believers.

Be consistent with the terms you chose in Peter’s Sermon for praising God and turn from…turn to….

This story is best understood told in conjunction with the following story about how Peter responds to the religious leaders while he is in jail.

**Story Set Themes**

Purpose
Church Formation
Spiritual Gifts
Holy Spirit