
Application Guide: Acts 3

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever made fun of someone for being poor or uneducated?

- b. Has anyone ever made fun of you because you are poor or uneducated? How did it make you feel? (a) Superior? (b) Insignificant or worthless? Why?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: It is a historical fact that Jesus was poor. The Bible states that He often slept outside in a park and owned nothing except the clothes he was wearing. The disciples all left their jobs to follow Jesus. They lived on the offerings that people gave them. After more than three years of following Jesus, Peter and John were still poor—they couldn't even give spare change to a beggar.

Picture it: Imagine what it would have been like to be a doctor in Jesus' day like Luke (the author of the book of Acts). While doctors may not have been as well paid back then as they are today, Luke must have had more money than most people—at least among the disciples. What do you think made Luke walk away from his medical practice and go with Paul on missionary journeys? How do you think he felt about hanging out with penniless people, like Peter and John, who were uneducated fishermen?

Discuss the role that money plays in society. Do you think anything has changed since Jesus' day?

Paul always took up offerings for widows and orphans wherever he went. Why do you think he made that a priority?

Do Christians do this today? Why or why not?

How do you think this change has affected the church?

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

a. How should you treat people who are less fortunate than yourself?

b. How can you be nice to poor/uneducated people without being made fun of by your friends?

c. When you think about your future career, how important is the income level to you?

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

a. Pray for Jesus to help you learn to love and be kind to all people.

b. Pray for Jesus to help you keep money and material things in proper balance in your life.

c. Pray for those who may be starving around the world.

d. Ask God to impress you with what you can do to help those who are poor/suffering.

5. Outreach Idea

a. Try to reach out and become better friends with someone who is less fortunate than you and your family.

b. Do some research on homelessness, then go and volunteer at a homeless shelter. Be sure to have at least one good conversation with a homeless person—ask them to share their life story.