

Dramatic Readings

*They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly,
and they gave the sense,
so that the people understood the reading.
Nehemiah 8:8*

Help your students capture the excitement of the Bible stories and express it as they read them aloud. Dramatic readings provide a way for the children to enter into the stories and develop good reading skills as they make a determined effort to bring the words to life.

Start by reading through the story and working out any vocabulary and pronunciation problems. Then talk about the characters and how they feel as the story develops. Encourage the children to put this feeling into their reading without overdoing it. Have them imagine that they are the actual characters as they read their parts. Then do the reading together and make it live!

A modern version is used in the script. Props and actions can be optional.

The Lame Man at the Beautiful Gate Acts 3:1-16 (ESV)

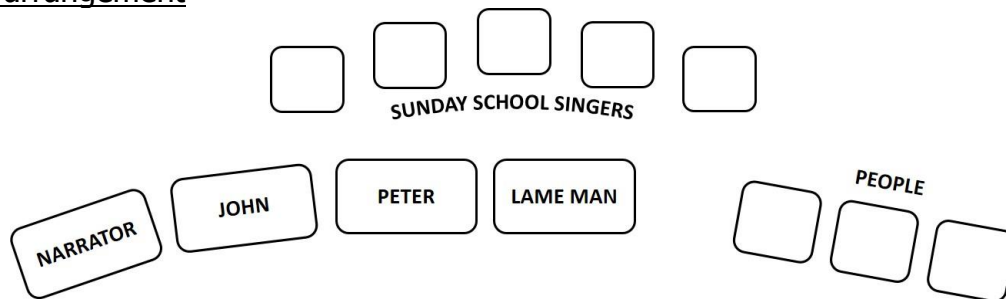
Readers

Narrator, Peter, Lame man.

Non-readers

John, People.

Seating arrangement



Props

Six chairs plus a low stool (for the lame man to sit on), metal cup with coins, large Bible name tags for all participants.

The reading

Narrator: Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask

alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. *(Acts 3:1-3)*

Lame man: "Alms, alms. Alms for a poor lame man. Alms, alms."

(Action: Lame man holds up and rattles the metal cup.)

Narrator: And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, *(Acts 3:4a)*

(Action: Peter and John look at the lame man.)

Peter: "Look at us." *(Acts 3:4b)*

(Action: Lame man looks at Peter and John and holds the cup out to them.)

Narrator: And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, *(Acts 3:5-6a)*

Peter: "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" *(Acts 3:6b)*

Narrator: And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. *(Acts 3:7-8)*

(Action: Peter reaches down, takes the lame man's right hand and helps him up. Lame man stands and jumps up and down for several seconds.)

Narrator: And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. *(Acts 3:9-10)*

(Action: People point wildly at Peter and John for a few seconds.)

Narrator: While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: *(Acts 3:11-12a)*

Peter: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the

presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

(Action: People gasp and applaud.)

Sunday School Singers (and all participants):

Silver And Gold Have I None

Peter and John went to pray.
They met a lame man on the way
He asked for alms and held out his palms,
And this is what Peter did say
Silver and gold have I none,
But such as I have give I thee,
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.
He went walking and leaping and praising God,
Walking and leaping and praising God,
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.

Concluded.

Words and chords for "Silver And Gold Have I None":

<https://www.slideshare.net/jemersonsexton/01-silver-and-gold-d7-c-g>

Sound tracks for this and many other children's Bible songs can be purchased online and downloaded from <http://weesing.com/Books-Music/Wee-Sing-Bible-Songs>.