



# Rise up.

## Give Up or Get Up? January 7, 2018

### 1. Rise Up and Knock – Acts 3:1-3

<sup>1</sup>Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.

- We need to rise up from where we are
- God doesn't just want you to survive, He wants you to thrive!
- Rise up, knock, and ask God for what will fix your situation; don't ask for pennies, ask for miracles

### 2. Rise Up and Walk – Acts 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup>And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup>And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup>But Peter said, "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!" <sup>7</sup>And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.


- Peter not only acknowledged the person and his real need, he also acknowledged the Source
- The lame man had everything he needed to walk
- We can rise up because Jesus has risen up!

### 3. Rise Up and Talk – Acts 3:8-10

<sup>8</sup>And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup>And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup>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.

- The lame man *leaped, stood, walked, praised* – all *action* words
- When we rise up instead of giving up, people see the power of Christ displayed in our lives
- Don't let circumstances define you, let the power of Christ define you!

*For reflection and small group discussion:*

 **Read 1 Corinthians 14:26, and listen as your leader reviews the purpose of our gathering.**  
*Reflect on these verses which exhort us to pursue God's purpose as we gather in our cells.*

**Hearing from God Together - Worship.** Spend a little time listening to a song, singing together, or reading a psalm. Have you heard from God this week? Is God giving you a word to share with an individual or your cell group?

 **Building Up One Another in the Word**

**READ Acts 3:1-10.** As you read,

**REFLECT** – Meditate on the passage and ask questions. What is the context of the passage? Enter into the Biblical scene in order to “see” the setting, the people, and the unfolding action. What are some words and phrases that the Holy Spirit is drawing my attention to? Do I know what the words and phrases mean? Do I understand what the Holy Spirit is saying through these verses?

**RESPOND** – What do you feel? Read this passage and look for how it speaks to your life. What specific situation in your life today relates to this passage? Are there beliefs, attitudes, or practices I need to adjust to deepen my relationship with Christ? Respond very specifically to what God has revealed to you in Scripture that speaks to your life. This is your personal response to the text: asking for graces, offering praise or thanksgiving, seeking healing or forgiveness. In this prayerful engagement with the text, you open yourself to the presence of God.

**REST** – Read the passage again, but this time, rest in God's presence in what He has spoken to you about your life through Scripture. Simply rest in the fact that God has spoken to you. Worship God for speaking to you and find strength, encouragement and hope, knowing you have just heard God; you have come into experiential contact with the One behind and beyond the text.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. What are some things that knocked you down in 2017?
2. When was the last time you gave up on something in the face of adversity? How did you decide it wasn't worth it?
3. When was the last time you rose up instead of giving up in the face of adversity? What made you decide it was worth it?
4. Read Acts 3:1-3. What was this lame man's life like? What did he do first thing in the morning? Throughout the day? At night? What do you think he bought with the change people gave him? What hope did he have of getting out of this cycle?
5. Are you in a kind of cycle like the lame man, with seemingly little hope of breaking the cycle?
6. Read Acts 3:4-7. What did Peter and John do when the lame man asked them for spare change? What did the man expect? Why do you think Peter took his arm and began lifting him up? How do you think he felt as the strength began to return to his feet and ankles? Have you ever felt this way?
7. Read Acts 3:8-10. What did the (formerly) lame man do with his new-found strength? Why? How did all the people react to his healing?
8. Think about those times you were knocked down, or perhaps in a hopeless cycle. From where did you draw your strength? What does Isaiah 40:31 say about how we gain strength?
9. What things will you ask God to heal you of? Will you ask for pennies or miracles? Be specific about what you want from God. Have faith that God wants you to thrive, not just survive!

*If you would like to be a part of a small group, called a T-Life Group, stop by the Information Center in the Village or contact us at [TLifeGroups@NorthWoodChurch.org](mailto:TLifeGroups@NorthWoodChurch.org).*



Share the name of someone you are praying for and with whom you desire to share Jesus. Have you seen any God activity in their life since you last met? Have you been *Bold as Love* in serving and sharing with them? Pray as a group that God would create circumstances in the person's life to make them open to receiving Jesus. Is any way you could show God's love to them as a T-Life Group? How are you serving OUT together as a T-Life Group?