



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** The Early Church  
Spring Year 1, Lesson 53

# The Power Church

**Take Home Point:** \*Jesus has the power to change US. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Acts 3:1-26

**Key Verse:** Acts 3:16, "We believe in the one named Jesus. Through his power alone this man...was healed."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Peter healing the crippled beggar.
- The power we have for change is through the name of Jesus Christ, who lives in us.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Amazed at what God can do through them.
- Open to the changes Jesus would want to make in their lives.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify and pray for changes in their lives that would be pleasing to God.
- See themselves as launched into their world to make a witness just as Peter did.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids play a game to talk about changes they would like to see happen in their lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>styrofoam peanuts in a bag for each group (<i>these need to be styrofoam for static electricity</i>)</li> <li>game cards (see appendix p. 10-11)</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7-8  8  8-9	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Gordy's Amazing Changes"  <b>Video:</b> <i>The Visual Bible---Acts:</i> 3:1-26  <b>Puppet Presentation Conclusion:</b> "Gordy's Amazing Changes"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gordy with a packing peanut taped to his nose</li> <li>Holy Spirit Power Shooter (See appendix p. 12)</li> <li>video, <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i>, produced by Visual Bible International. Inc. (1995) Show Acts 3:1-26.</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4-6	Discussion and questions will illustrate that God changes us... for the better.	<b>Option 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a clear bowl labeled on the bottom with clear contact paper that reads "Jesus" for each group.</li> <li>dissolvable or biodegradeable (starch) packing peanuts for each group (<i>These can be purchased at a local office store that mails packages.</i>)</li> </ul> <b>Option 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>styrofoam packing peanuts</li> <li>markers</li> <li>toothpicks</li> <li>small scraps of material and yarn</li> <li>glue</li> </ul>

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Today's warm-up activity will set the tone for the lesson as the kids talk about changes they would like to see happen in their lives. It is a great time for you, as a shepherd, to listen closely and learn many new things about your kids.*

*For the warm-up activity you will need a bag of styrofoam packing peanuts and a set of seven question cards.*

Begin with:

**Today we are going to talk about change. How many of you like to change things? How many of you like to have things stay the same?**

**We are going to play a game today about change. This is how it works. When it is your turn, rub your hands together (or on clothes or rub feet on the carpet) and then put one of your hands quickly down into the bag of styrofoam peanuts. Pull it out and see how many peanuts stick to your hand.**

In the center of the group have the seven question cards. These cards have a question on one side and are numbered on the reverse.

**Turn over the card with the number corresponding to the number of peanuts on your hand. If you had zero peanuts stick to your hand, you can turn over whichever card you want. Then answer the question on the card. (See the appendix for the questions that are on the cards.)**

*Static electricity will cause the peanuts to stick to one's hand. If this does not work, an alternative activity would be to place a piece of paper on the floor and see how many peanuts each child can drop onto it from a certain height. If they get all seven in, they get the number seven card.*

After the children have all had a turn, continue with:

**Change can sometimes be very exciting. Today in our Bible event a lame man wanted change and God made that change happen. God healed him.**

**There are sometimes things in our lives we would like to change. God wants us to tell him about the changes we want. He wants to change the things that will work out best for us.**

**Did you see how the packing peanuts stuck to our hands? There was an invisible power, static electricity that held the peanuts on our hands. This is also a picture of how God works for us. He has an**

invisible power that can take those things that need changing right into his hands. His powerful hands will work in our lives to help us change the things that will be God pleasing.

Today we will learn that *\*Jesus has the power to change us.*

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Overview:**

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy’s Amazing Changes”

Gordy wants to make some pretty impressive changes of his own accord so others will think more of him.

**Video:** *The Visual Bible: Acts.* Show Acts 3:1-26.

**Puppet Presentation Conclusion:** “Gordy’s Amazing Changes”

Gordy learns that the real power to change comes from Jesus.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Acts 3 in their Bibles.

**What did the lame man want to have changed in his life?** (*Acts 3:3. He wanted a handout or money.*)

**What did God know he needed instead of money?** (*He needed to walk, but more importantly, he needed a spiritual change.*)

In verse six, Peter and John told him that they didn't have money but what they *had* they would give him. What was it they could give him? *(The ability to walk and the knowledge of Jesus Christ.)*

**Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

Peter and John quickly turned the man from looking at them. They wanted him to know where their power came from. Look at verses 6 and 16. Where did they point the man? *(To Jesus.)*

Why do you think it was so important to Peter and John that he and all the people around understood that? *(Because any power to change actually comes from Jesus working the change in us. He is the power in us, not our own belief in how strong or mighty we are.)*

Why do you think the people were so amazed? How did the people react? *(Acts 3:9-11. They ran to see it because they were so excited.)*

**Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**Can Jesus work changes in your life?**

Direct kids to think about bad habits or sin patterns. One way you can help them see what they need to change is to ask them what their parents or teachers remind them to do or not do.

**What things in your life need to be changed or what new things would you want to happen? What are some of the things you thought of during warm up?**

For example, I would like to change my temper when someone makes me mad. Maybe you have a hard time cooperating with your parents when they ask you to pick up your room.

Let kids share and then say:

**When the Holy Spirit has filled you up and Jesus has worked changes in your life, you will explode onto others with the wonderful news of Jesus (just like the Holy Spirit power shooter). People will be amazed at the wonderful things Jesus will do through you.**

**Peter said in the Bible event for today, “We believe in the one named Jesus. Through his power alone this man...was healed” (Acts 3:16).  
\*Jesus has the power to change us.**

Application Activity:

Option 1:

Fill with water a clear bowl labeled on the bottom with clear contact paper that reads "Jesus." Use packing peanuts that will dissolve in water.

**The water in this bowl reminds me of baptism. When Jesus came into my life, he made huge changes. Ever since then he has always been there ready to make more changes in my life. That's the really cool thing about Jesus. He is always there for me. I don't have to keep asking him back because he lives in me. Jesus is always there waiting to make those changes.**

**Some of you may not be baptized but Jesus has been living in you ever since the Holy Spirit worked faith in your heart.**

**As you share the change you want to have happen in your life, drop the peanut I give you into the water. That will remind us that Jesus lives inside of us and wants to make life-changes happen in us. He wants to make us better so we can spread the news of God's kingdom to others.**

Have each child share the change they want to occur and then drop the peanut into the water.

**Now watch the bowl to see what happens. Amazing! Look at the change that is occurring. (The peanut disappears.) Jesus takes those things that are bad in our lives and changes them. He does a miracle in our lives.**

Option 2:

**We have talked about a change we want Jesus to make in us. Take several packing peanuts and think about that change. The peanuts have reminded us of the change that needs to occur. Take some toothpicks and construct a little person from the peanuts and toothpicks that will help remind you of the changes Jesus will make in you. Every time you look at this person this week, thank God for the changes he is causing to happen in you.**

Use markers, yarn, or little bits of styrofoam to decorate.

Closing Prayer:

Have the children pair up and talk to each other about a change they want Jesus to make in their lives and also a person they would like to share Jesus with to help make a change in their life. Then have the pair pray together for each other and for these changes to occur.

Close the prayer with everyone coming together and thanking Jesus and the Holy Spirit for making these changes in our lives.

## Large Group Presentation

### “Gordy’s Amazing Changes”

Puppet Presentation

**Take Home Point: \*Jesus has the power to change us.**

Mr. King will need the packing peanut shooter as diagramed in the appendix. Gordy enters with a packing peanut taped to his nose.

**Mr. King:** Hi kids! Today we are talking about how *\*Jesus has the power to change you.* We might see some pretty powerful changes.

Gordy: (*Enters.*) Hi, everyone! I’m ready for some pretty powerful changes myself.

**Mr. King:** Fantastic, Gordy. But what’s that thing on your nose?

Gordy: Pretty impressive isn’t it?

**Mr. King:** I suppose so. What is it?

Gordy: It’s part of my new change. I needed to change some things about myself and here you have it!

**Mr. King:** It looks like a packing peanut on your nose. What does that have to do with change?

Gordy: Don’t you get it? Aren’t you impressed? I’m making some amazing changes in my life so I can do some amazing feats...like balancing a packing peanut on my nose!

**Mr. King:** Your amazing feat is to balance a packing peanut on your nose?

Gordy: That’s not all. I’m also going to learn to yo-yo with the yo-yo tied to my toes. And I’m going to ride my scooter backwards and...

**Mr. King:** (*Interrupts.*) Gordy, all these things are big changes *you* want to do.

Gordy: Yeah, aren’t they cool? I can really impress people now. I think change is good.

**Mr. King:** Gordy, I’m sorry to tell you but I’m not too impressed with these changes.

Gordy: What do you know about true talent?

**Mr. King:** Gordy, it looks to me like the packing peanut is taped to your nose. I don't think you are balancing it.

Gordy: Well, you have to start somewhere.

**Mr. King:** I think there's a better place to start. There's nothing wrong with trying to do those crazy stunts. Those changes are fine. But do you know God can work much greater changes in your life?

Gordy: Greater than doing a yo-yo with your toes?

**Mr. King:** Yes. *\*Jesus has the power to change you.* He can change you by giving you forgiveness and getting rid of the guilt of sin. He can help change your bad habits into good habits. He can even heal your body from sickness or disease.

Gordy: Wow! Can he heal people even today?

**Mr. King:** You bet. Let's watch today's Bible event. Peter called upon Jesus' name and Jesus made a big change in someone's life.

Show Acts 3:1-26 from the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts*.

## **"Gordy's Amazing Changes"**

### Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy: Mr. King, that was really cool how that guy just got up and walked when Peter said, "Through the power of Jesus, walk!" I wish I could do that.

**Mr. King:** I think you can!

Gordy: You mean I can tell crippled people to get up and walk and they will? Wow!

**Mr. King:** It doesn't quite work that way. First of all, remember how it is that Peter healed that crippled man? He said, "Through the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth, walk!"

Gordy: I get it. It's not my power. It's Jesus' power.

**Mr. King:** Yes. So you use his name.

Gordy: Then I can use his name and go heal people.



**Mr. King:** Perhaps. But remember that it's *Jesus* who will decide what is best, whether people are healed right away or later or when they are in heaven.

Gordy: So then Jesus might use me to heal people?

**Mr. King:** Sure, he might. But one thing is absolutely for sure – Jesus has the power to change you. And he will send you out with the power of his name so you can help him change others.

Gordy: Kind of like what Peter did, huh?

**Mr. King:** Yes. Jesus changed Peter and then Peter helped change the world. He was a witness to all about the power of Jesus to change lives.

Let me show you one last example. May I borrow this packing peanut off your nose?

Remove packing peanut and place it in packing peanut shooter.

Gordy: Ouch! There goes my new change.

**Mr. King:** But here's a better one. I'm putting this peanut in my special Holy Spirit canon. Remember how the wind reminds us of the Holy Spirit? Jesus has the power to change us and then the Holy Spirit sends us out into the world so we can be like Peter and share God's power to change with others.

Turn on hairdryer and spray audience with packing peanuts.

Gordy: Whoa! Way cool, Mr. King.

**Mr. King:** Yes. Those packing peanuts are like you. God is launching you out into the world to help change it, just as Jesus has changed you! Would you pray about this?

Gordy: Sure, Mr. King!

Dear God, thank you once again for Jesus. We believe it is true that there is great power in Jesus' name. *\*Jesus has the power to change us.* Help each of us get changed just the way you want. Then send us out like those packing peanuts getting sprayed all over. Your Holy Spirit can send us so we can help you change the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Mr. King:** Great. Bye, kids. Bye, Gordy.

Gordy: Bye, Mr. King.

Question Cards  
(back)

**If you could change anything about your big brother (or a family member), what would it be?**

**If you could change anything about your school or teacher, what would it be?**

**If you could change something about yourself at school, what would it be?**

**A change around my house that I would like to see is.....**

**If you could change a feeling that you have a lot that you don't like, it would be...**

**If I could change something about a TV show I watch, it would be...**

**If I could change a rule at home, it would be...**

**One thing I would really like to see changed about me would be....**

Question Cards  
(front)

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

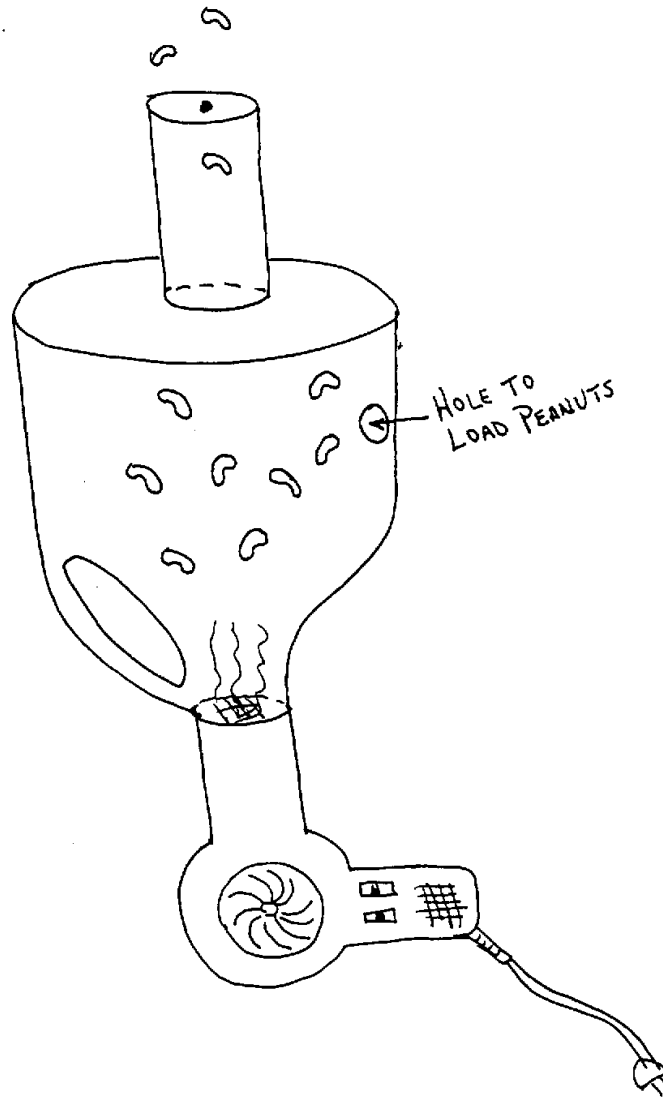
**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

## The Holy Spirit Power Shooter



Directions for making the Holy Spirit Power Shooter: Cut a hole in the bottom of a milk jug. Make the hole large enough for a cardboard tube from paper towels or bathroom tissue to fit snugly into. At the mouth of the jug, cut a hole large enough so the nozzle of a hair dryer fits securely. Seal the dryer nozzle to the jug with tape. Cut a small hole in the side of the jug where the packing peanut from Gordy's nose can be dropped in.

Fill the jug with styrofoam peanuts. Cover the outside of the jug with wrapping paper or aluminum foil so the kids cannot see what is happening inside.