

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of July 16th, 2006

Acts 3:1-8; Things Aren't Always What They Seem

For Small-Group Leaders

Dear Leaders,

We are not always the most perceptive folks. We miss details all the time. If you have ever seen Half Dome you know that its beauty varies depending upon your perspective, lighting, the distance from which you stand, and many other factors. So it is with life. We don't see everything there is to see especially in matters of faith. Paul remarked to the Corinthians, "We walk by faith, not by sight." That was Paul's admission that he couldn't see all that God was doing at any given time thus the need for faith.

This week's story takes us to a man who appeared to need something (money) but in fact he needed something much deeper. He needed what only God could give him but which he could not see. What follows is his story. Enjoy the discussion.

Scott

These small group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

- **Surprise:** What is the greatest surprise you've ever received?
- **Surprised by God:** Has God ever surprised you with some good news of some kind? What was it?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Read Acts 3:1-8

1. There are a number of surprising or unexpected elements in this story. What are some of them?
2. Try to imagine this exchange. Notice the way Peter and John interacted with this man. How was their interaction different from the way others treated him?
3. The crippled man was hoping only for some money from Peter and John. Why were Peter and John unwilling to give money? What did they, in fact, want to give him instead?
4. Consider the extent of how deeply this man's life was changed. How was it changed physically? Spiritually? Relationally? Otherwise?
5. Think about the ways that God has changed your life recently. What is one change he has made?
6. Please read Ephesians 3:20-21. Can you remember a time when God gave you something better than what you had originally asked of him?
7. Look at how the word "power" is used in Ephesians 3:20. What is "power" related to according to Paul?
8. Think about the phrase, "Glory in the church." How might it be related to the event in Acts 3? How might it be related to what you see happening in and through the lives of people at FBC?

Getting Personal:

- In Acts 3, we find the people responding in wonder to what God had done. Read Psalm 9:1-2. What does the Psalmist mean when he declares, "I will tell of all your wonders"?
- What role does "praise" and "wonder" play in training your heart to "see" beyond the physical world, so you can walk by faith rather than sight?

Putting it into Practice:

- Living by faith rather than sight involves choosing to see God at work in your own life and in our world. Spend some time sharing about the "wonders" that God has worked in your lives.
- What wonders could you share with those outside your group? Pray and ask God to give you the opportunity to tell of God's wonders to others.