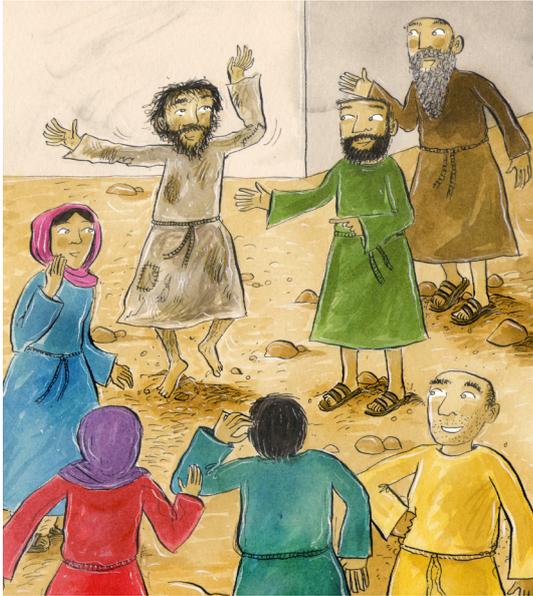


**Acts 3:12-19**

**Learning to live after our mistakes**

After a lame man was healed, people were astonished. Peter asks the crowds 'Why?' He explains that Jesus is the long-promised Messiah, rejected and killed but raised from the dead by God. And it is through Jesus that the man was healed. Citing Moses and the prophets, Peter calls the people to repent of their sins – including failing to recognise Jesus – and to know the refreshing presence of Jesus in their lives.



**REFLECT**

What good choices have you made this week? Have you made any bad or difficult choices? What are your hopes for the week ahead? Where is God in your decision-making process?



Practice saying some tongue twisters, e.g. Red lorry, yellow lorry; or She sells seashells. Think together about things in everyday life where correcting a mistake through practising is helpful. What might this mean for being a disciple of Jesus?

*Write*

Make a list of other characters from the Bible who made mistakes and repented. What does this list tell you?

**Bible notes**



Words and actions belong closely together in Acts. Speaking God's Word with boldness is accompanied by signs and wonders. The action comes first as Peter heals a lame man, 'in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk' (3:6). Now, as the crowd runs towards them in astonishment, Peter explains what has happened. When Peter 'took him by the right hand and raised him up' (3:7), the lame man was given 'perfect health' through Jesus. This is the new life that began with Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is the author, or pioneer, of this risen life, and the same title is used of Jesus in connection with his death and resurrection in Hebrews 2:10 and 12:2. Peter accuses the crowd of Jesus' murder, 'You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead'. He doesn't choose here to mention his own shameful part in the story, falling asleep when asked to pray with Jesus in his agony (Luke 22:45-46), weeping bitterly after denying three times that he knew Jesus (22:62). But Jesus had said to him, 'When once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers' (22:32). Now he urges the crowd to repentance with similar words, 'Turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out'. In Jesus' suffering, to which he contributed, in Jesus' resurrection, to which he witnesses, and in the repentance that he proclaims, Peter sees the fulfilment of the loving promises of God. This echoes the words of the risen Jesus to the disciples in today's Gospel, 'Thus it is written'.

**First impressions**

- When in your life has a mistake become an opportunity?
- How do/should we treat others who make mistakes?
- How might this approach to mistakes be received by people outside the church?



**A prayer for all ages**

Lord, we all make mistakes.  
Some of our mistakes hurt you. (*point up*)  
Some of our mistakes hurt other people. (*point to others*)  
Some of our mistakes hurt us. (*point to self*)  
Lord, help us to learn from our mistakes (*thumbs up*)  
and not to be hard on ourselves. (*hug self*)  
And when someone hurts us, (*flinch as if hurt*)  
Lord, help us to forgive. (*arms open in welcome*)  
Amen.



**BAKE**

Make something delicious out of leftovers or use a recipe that appears to be a mistake, e.g. pineapple upside-down cake, or cake pops. Talk about Peter's journey of faith as you share your treats.