

# Peter & John

## TEACHING NOTES

### KEY VERSES

Acts 3:1-4:37

### KEY THEMES

God has a plan  
God uses people of faith



### Peter & John (Acts 3:1-16)

In the name of Jesus



### Peter's message of forgiveness (Acts 3:17-24)



### God uses people of faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 3:25-26)



### God builds His Church (Acts 4:1-4, 5-11)



### Salvation (Acts 4:12)

*There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)*

**Peter & John, transformed (Acts 4:13)**

*The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)*

Boldness

Ordinary men

Been with Jesus

**Prayer (Acts 4:23-31)****The believers share their possessions (Acts 4:32-37)**

United in heart and mind, filled with the Spirit

**Lesson Objective:**

*To see God's character revealed through the Holy Spirit, and His purpose and plan revealed and accomplished through the church by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

## PERSONAL STUDY

This is your opportunity for ongoing study of the material from our recent session. God is the one who is actively revealing His character and His plan as we interact with His Word.

### Study 1

#### Prepare your heart and mind

Whenever we spend time reading and studying God's Word, we should ask God to prepare our hearts and minds to receive the truth that He has for us. Take a moment to do this now.

#### At the beginning of chapter 4, Peter and John are arrested shortly after healing a crippled man



#### Read Acts 4:5-7

Who are John and Peter addressing in this passage?

What are the council of religious leaders and priests questioning in verse 7?



#### God uses people of faith

The question asked by the religious leaders shows that there was evidence of a power at work within these ordinary men.



#### Read Acts 4:8-10

Where does Peter claim the power to heal the crippled man came from?



#### Read Acts 4:13

The religious leaders see a boldness in Peter and John. What other two things are known about them?

Peter and John were ordinary men with no special training in the scriptures. But did you catch that they were recognized as men who had been with Jesus?

Take time to reflect on the following questions. Do you regularly spend time with Jesus? Would people recognize you as a follower of Jesus? Is the power of the Holy Spirit so evident in you that others take notice?

Think of a major life event you've gone through (i.e. marriage, birth of a child, death of a loved one, etc) When it happened, what was the first thing you wanted to do? Our natural reaction is to tell people about the major things that happen in our lives. The same is true in our relationship with God. When He works in our lives we want to tell people about it. We know that through the Great Commission we are called to tell people about what God has done in our lives and to share the Good News of Jesus. Why do we find it difficult to share our testimony when it's easy to share the non-spiritual aspects of our lives?



### **Read Acts 4:18-20**

The Spirit of God is such that it cannot be contained. If we are faithfully meeting with Jesus, experiencing the power of His Spirit, wouldn't we naturally be compelled to tell our stories and experiences to others?

### **Key verse**

Put to memory Acts 4:13. Put your scripture card in a place you will see it often.

### **Prayer time**

Invite God to search your heart and reveal His Truth. Ask God to show you how to move from where you are now into a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Him. Pray Matthew 5:16, "Father, let my light shine before others, that they may see my good deeds and glorify You."

## Study 2

### Prepare your heart and mind

Begin by quieting yourself before God. Ask Him to help you focus and learn what He has for you from this time with Him and His Word.

In last week's lesson we learned that every person who places their faith in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit – forever. In this week's teaching we see how Jesus went from being with the people to residing in them through His Holy Spirit. Why would He do this?



#### Read Acts 1:8

What does a person gain when they receive the Holy Spirit?

What purpose does God have in mind when He gives someone the power of the Holy Spirit?

Before you read this next passage, consider the man Peter was when Jesus was arrested and then crucified. How would you describe him? If you need a reminder go back and read Luke 22:54-62. As you read this account of Peter consider the difference in how he responded to people then and how he responded to people in Acts.



#### God uses people of faith



#### Read Acts 4:18-22, 28-31

What words would you use to describe Peter now?

What was at the heart of their prayers in verses 29-30?

As these believers acted in faith and continued to share the Good News, God empowered them with boldness through His Holy Spirit. One of the traits of a growing follower of Jesus is the desire to share Him with others. How would you describe your desire to find ways to share Jesus with those around you who may not have placed their faith in Him?

If you find yourself struggling with your answer to the last question, be honest with God. Ask Him to give you a burden for people who don't know God. Ask Him to give you a sense of urgency for the eternal destination of people's lives. You may not even be aware of what is holding you back – misplaced priorities, fear, lack of knowing what to do or say. As you talk with God, He will show you what changes to make in the way you think and live your life so that you become better equipped to reach your world for Him.

Continue praying for the people God has identified in your life that need to know Him. Ask God to help you be aware of, and take advantage of, opportunities He gives you to begin sharing Christ with them.

### **Key verse**

Continue to memorize Acts 4:13. See if you can write it out from memory below.

### **Prayer time**

God continues to build His church and He wants each of us to play our role. Begin this time of talking with God by thanking Him for being faithful in growing His Church. Ask God to give you faith to trust what He wants to do through you as you grow in being a witness for Him.

## PARENT GUIDE

During this week in your personal study you have been encouraged with an incredible story from the book of Acts. It is a story of transformation and boldness. Peter and John took bold steps of faith as the religious leaders confronted them. These leaders recognized them as “men who had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13) Every one of us should strive to be a person who is recognized as someone who has been with Jesus. This is called being a witness. Take some time to talk through the following questions with your children. Use the questions to begin a conversation with your children about being a witness.

### Table Talk

What do you think it means to be a witness? *(Possible answer: a witness is someone who shares about the way Jesus has worked in his or her life.)*

Where are we to be a witness? *(This should be a fairly easy question because we are supposed to be a witness everywhere.)*

The main purpose of a witness is to tell about Jesus. In your own words who is Jesus?

## OPTIONAL STUDY

The God who created the heavens and the universe has been faithful over the course of history to communicate His character and message to the nations. Amos 3:7 says, “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servant the prophets.” The Old Testament contains thousands of years of the Lord foretelling the coming of the Messiah to the nation of Israel. After Pentecost and the coming power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples had a new understanding of the scriptures and the prophets.



### Read Acts 3

What did Peter use to validate their claims about Jesus? (verses 18-26)

Why do you think God tells us things ahead of time? Think back to the promises God gave to Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. Read Romans 10:17.

Has the Lord ever made a prediction that was not true?

The Lord is faithful; both to communicate and to do what He says He will do. God clearly announced the arrival of His Son through many Old Testament prophecies, yet Jesus was shunned by most of the Old Testament scholars of His day. So the question is not whether God speaks, but are we hearing, understanding, and responding in faith to what He has spoken.