



Gateway To Life Bible Studies

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)

LESSON 2

Please read ACTS 3-5

1. At the established hour of prayer, Peter and John went to the temple to pray. Describe the condition of the man they met. What did the man receive instead of alms? How complete was the cure? 3:1-8
2. What 4-fold result of the miracle can you find in verses 8-9?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

The crowning evidence that Jesus has touched a life is when people (especially one's enemies) are compelled to admit its reality.

Peter's Second Sermon

3. Peter's sermon gives a 3-fold testimony to Christ. Fill in the blanks:
 - a. Christ as the _____ of all genuine miracles 3:12-17.
 - b. Christ as the _____ of all souls 3:18-21.
 - c. Christ as the _____ of all prophecies 3:22-26
4. Read again 3:14-15.
 - a. Whom does Peter charge with the guilt of the death of Christ
 - b. What 2 titles does Peter here give to Christ?
5. What is the connecting link between the risen Christ and the healed man? 3:16

6. What does Peter promise these people if they will repent and return to the Messiah whom they crucified? 3:20-21
7. What did Moses foresee would happen to those who reject Christ? 3:23
8. What is one word to describe the message of the risen Savior? 3:26 Is that a blessing or a curse?

Persecution Begins

9. Who joined the crowd when Peter was preaching? What part of the sermon particularly bothered the Sadducees. 4:1-2
 10. What was the positive response to this sermon? 4:4
 11. When under questioning Peter showed tremendous courage and boldness. Where do you think that boldness came from? What surprised his audience? 4:10, 13
 12. What does a 'dumb ol' fisherman' believe about salvation? 4:
 13. What was the dilemma this Council had? 4:16
 14. Peter and John were recalled to the chambers of the Sanhedrin and advised that they could never again speak or teach in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Actually, the Sanhedrin had little hope that they would obey this command. There was only one course of action for Peter and John. Fill in the blank: we _____ stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”
- This open defiance only provoked an additional threat by the Sanhedrin. Their arrest and release were only to increase the number of believers in Jesus of Nazareth. The New Testament church had been born, was expanding rapidly, and had two eloquent spokesmen in the persons of Peter and John. Nothing could stand in the way of its development. Persecution only hastened the inevitable growth of the church.*
15. Having been released the apostles returned to the other disciples. It was a time for rejoicing and prayer. How did they address God? 4:24

16. Next came a rehearsing of Satan's attempts to thwart the purpose of God as represented by Herod Antipas and Pontius Pilate. They are not concerned, however, with Satan's attempts for they are convinced that what happened to the Lord Jesus (and now to them) was foreordained by the counsel of God. Why does their knowledge of Psalm 2 encourage them to pray rightly? 4:25-28, Psalm 2

17. The disciples pray for 3 things. What were they? 4:29-30

- a.
- b.
- c.

18. What happened when they finished praying? 4:31

19. Describe the internal state of the Church at that time. 4:32-35

Ananias and Sapphira

20. Compare and contrast the actions of Barnabas with Ananias and Sapphira. 4:36-5:10

21. What was the sin that they were accused of? 5:3, 9

22. What was the result of this 'double death' to the church? 5:11

23. Verses 12-16 describe in general what was happening in Jerusalem during these days because of the ministry in and through the Church. Check off which one of these descriptions you find significant:

- Signs and wonders were taking place
- They were unified in the gatherings
- There was constant growth through salvation
- The standards were so high outsiders dared not associate with them
- The sick were healed
- The demon possessed were healed

Why did you choose the one you did? Be prepared to explain to your group why this captivates you.

24. Who was offended by the influence of the apostles? 5:17

25. What message were the apostles to proclaim? 5:20

26. What "Life" are they talking about? See John 6:63, 68

27. What truth was Peter careful to emphasize? 5:30

28. What advice did Gamaliel give 5:35, 39

29. What did the apostles decide to do? 5:42

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. As you read through Acts 3-5, please note the things that were happening within the lives of believers that, in your opinion, were building up and maturing the group of believers in this time of history. The first one is given as an example:

1.	Persecution started	4:3; 5:18
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

#2. As you read through Acts 3-5, please note the things that were happening outside, in and to the lives of unbelievers that, in your opinion, were contributing to the expansion of the church. The first one is given as an example:

1.	Signs & wonders and healings	3:1-10; 5:12-16
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

#3. Share with your group one area of personal growth that you see in Question #1 that you long to see expressed better in your life.

#4. Based upon the entire history recorded in Acts 3-5, what are some of the essential elements that contribute to the expansion of the Church?

#5. Please take time to pray for one another, for both personal aspirations as noted in #3 and for our Church that the elements you noted in #4 may be realized by God's grace and power.

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