
ORIGINS:

*Trace Your Story to the
Book of Acts*

WWW.JESSECAMPBELLMINISTRIES.COM

FAMILY/GROUP SESSION

WATCH OR LISTEN TO THE SERMON, THEN LEAD YOUR
GROUP OR FAMILY IN THE BIBLE PASSAGE THAT
FOLLOWS

Family/Home-Group Session 3

Acts 4:1-22

This week's sermon is in Acts 3 (whole chapter)
At www.JesseCampbellMinistries.com

Context:

- God used Peter and John to miraculously heal a forty-year-old man who had been unable to walk since birth. The whole town had kept him alive with their generous financial gifts for four decades as they passed him by the ornate temple entryway called "Beautiful." Now, he was running and jumping and praising God. The Sadducees, part of the Jewish leadership formed in the Maccabean revolt and deniers of the resurrection, were upset that uneducated Peter and John gave credit to Jesus for the miracle.

The Big Idea of This Week's Bible Passage:

- The religious leaders who oversaw Jesus' crucifixion were annoyed with Peter and John for miraculously healing a man and giving the credit to the resurrected Jesus. In the face of miraculous proof, corrupt religious leaders could say nothing. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, shared the gospel with boldness, and the newborn New Testament Church grew even more.

Acts 4:1-22 While they were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple police, and the Sadducees confronted them, 2 because they were annoyed that they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. 3 So they seized them and took them into custody until the next day since it was already evening. 4 But many of those who heard the message believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. 5 The next day, their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem 6 with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and all the members of the high-priestly family. 7 After they had Peter and John stand before them, they began to question them: "By what power or in what name have you done this?" 8 Then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders: 9 If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a disabled man, by what means he was healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing here before you healthy.

**11 This Jesus is
the stone rejected by you builders,
which has become the cornerstone.**

12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”

13 When they observed the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed and recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 And since they saw the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in opposition. 15 After they ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin, they conferred among themselves, 16 saying, “What should we do with these men? For an obvious sign has been done through them, clear to everyone living in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But so that this does not spread any further among the people, let’s threaten them against speaking to anyone in this name again.” 18 So they called for them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

19 Peter and John answered them, “Whether it’s right in the sight of God for us to listen to you rather than to God, you decide; 20 for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

21 After threatening them further, they released them. They found no way to punish them because the people were all giving glory to God over what had been done. 22 For this sign of healing had been performed on a man over forty years old.

- 1. Peter and John were arrested. This is a preacher’s worst case scenario. It looked like an epic failure, but what was the outcome (v.4)? How?**
- 2. What crucial words in verse 8 changed what Peter would have said otherwise? What difference might these words make in your evangelistic life?**
- 3. If you’re a Christian, what will you say to Peter and John in heaven one day about their choice words in verse 10?**

- 4. In a relativist culture like ours, what would make verse 12 offensive? Should we back down because it offends people?**
- 5. Peter and John did not have seminary educations. What, according to verse 13, did they have and can we have a form of it today?**
- 6. Why did the Sanhedrin threaten Peter and John further? Who are the Sanhedrin in your context and how can you point to Christ the way Spirit-filled Peter did?**

The Takeaway for us as the Church:

- You do not need a seminary education to see revival. You don't even need to finish your message. You just point unapologetically and humbly toward Jesus. Stand there in your miraculously healed state as a redeemed sinner and the mob of hypocrites won't matter to you anymore. As the Church, the Bride of Christ, we care most what He thinks of us - not the Sanhedrin.

How to Show Your Kids Jesus in this Passage:

All Scripture points to Jesus. Here is how you can take what God showed you in this text and disciple your child with it! You don't need a seminary degree and you don't need to be perfect. Just point to Jesus. He is perfect.

When God does amazing things through us, it will cause trouble for us; most often with people who claim to follow God too. Like Peter and John in Acts 4, filled with the Holy Spirit, we never back down from pointing people to Jesus. Like the miraculously healed man, we stand tall in the healing love of Christ and what others think of us won't matter.

For the Leader: Acts 4:1-22

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Ice-Breaker Ideas:

- "Christians are the biggest problem most Christians will face. Welcome to church-life."

or

- "Most of the arrows you take as a Christian will hit you in the back. Let's open the Bible to Acts 4."

Context:

- Invite Group Members who have not yet watched it on video or listened to its podcast audio to find this session's corresponding sermon at www.JesseCampbellMinistries.com.
- God used Peter and John to miraculously heal a forty-year-old man who had been unable to walk since birth. The whole town had kept him alive with their generous financial gifts for four decades as they passed him by the ornate temple entryway called "Beautiful." Now, he was running and jumping and praising God. The Sadducees, part of the Jewish leadership formed in the Maccabean revolt and deniers of the resurrection, were upset that uneducated Peter and John gave credit to Jesus for the miracle.

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- **Peter and John were arrested. This is a preacher's worst case scenario. It looked like an epic failure, but what was the outcome (v.4)? How?**
 - *Jewish law forbade the 71 Sanhedrin from hearing a trial at night.*
 - *"The total number of men in the New Testament Church grew to 5,000. In our culture, of course, we include women and children in headcounts, so the total number could easily have been greater than 12,000."*

- **What crucial words in verse 8 changed what Peter would have said otherwise? What difference might these words make in your evangelistic life?**
 - *"That Peter was 'filled with the Holy Spirit' changed everything. It was no longer Peter speaking, but God speaking through him. This was a fulfillment of what Jesus promised in Luke 21."*
 - **Luke 21:12 But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you. They will hand you over to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13 This will give you an opportunity to bear witness. 14 Therefore make up your minds not to prepare your defense ahead of time, 15 for I will give you such words and a wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.**
- **If you're a Christian, what will you say to Peter and John in heaven one day about their choice words in verse 10?**
 - *Encourage the group to resonate with Peter's God-given boldness. God was with Peter. He will be with us too. What Peter said is just as true today, so we are just as obligated as Peter to never back down. Let us never be embarrassed of the gospel or water the gospel down because the gospel is the only thing that saves.*
- **In a relativist culture like ours, what would make verse 12 offensive? Should we back down because it offends people?**
 - *The audaciously exclusive truth claim innate within Christianity was spoken by Jesus himself in John 14:6. To acquiesce to even one other worldview is to give a false gospel and be held accountable before God for having denied Him. God can take the world's ire. Let Him bear it and turn their hearts. If people object to the exclusivity of Christianity, they must take that up with Jesus.*
- **Peter and John did not have seminary educations. What, according to verse 13, did they have and can we have a form of it today?**
 - *"Your story as a Christian is your own story of your own encounter with Jesus. Nothing, nothing, nothing in this world can ever disprove or take away what God has done in your life. You too have been with Jesus. You too can give a Spirit-filled testimony that dumbfounds the Sanhedrin. So, do it."*
- **Why did the Sanhedrin threaten Peter and John further? Who are the Sanhedrin in your context and how can you point to Christ the way Spirit-filled Peter did?**
 - *Peter and John had broken no laws. The Sanhedrin wanted them to stop spreading the incriminating news that they had the Messiah crucified.*

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Around the Group Follow-Up:

Keep a journal of prayers prayed and answered, ask for updates on the Non-Christians each Christian in the group is sharing the gospel with, and invite each member of the group whether Christian or Non-Christian to take their next steps in the discipleship process.

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Thank you so much for leading people in God's Word! [Now, please go to this link to upload your attendance](#) in the row next to your group's name and under the column of this week's Sunday date (even if you do not meet on Sunday).