

Session 4

The Good News Shared¹

Focus: To learn more about the Gospel message shared by Jesus' Apostles by looking at Peter's sermons and claims about Jesus in the New Testament book of Acts. To consider how we might share the good news of Jesus in a way that echoes the approach of the Apostles.

Start by saying the Jesus Creed out loud: Jesus said – “The first commandment is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31)

Opening Questions

1. Have you read much in the Gospels about the Apostle Simon Peter or heard sermons about him? What do you remember about him? If you need a refresher, here are some stories about Peter:
 - Peter disagrees with Jesus (Matthew 16:22–23)
 - Peter falls asleep praying (Matthew 26:40)
 - Peter attacks someone with a sword (John 18:10)
 - Peter denies Jesus publicly (John 18:15–27)
2. How is the behaviour of Peter in the book of Acts different from his words and actions in the Gospels?
 - See Acts 2 for an example
3. What do you think made the change in him?
 - Read Luke 22:31-34 and Luke 24:33-35 or John 21

Bible Study – Peter's Gospel (Acts 3)

Peter and John, two of Jesus' closest disciples, were going to the temple in Jerusalem to pray one afternoon. They saw a lame beggar, and when Peter used the authority of Jesus' name, God healed the man. Many Jewish people gathered around, and Peter preached this gospel sermon to them.

Read Acts 3:12-26. You can read 3:1-11 for the full context.

1. What references does Peter make to the Story of Israel?
2. What parts of Jesus' story does Peter tell?
3. How does Peter call people to respond to the good news? What does he say will happen if they do?

¹ Adapted from *Following King Jesus: How To Know, Read, Live, And Show The Gospel*, by Scot McKnight & Becky Castle Miller (Zondervan 2019) p.43-50

If you want to dig deeper into the gospel messages in the book of Acts, you can look up all seven of them over the next two weeks:

1. Peter's Gospel Sermon on Pentecost (Acts 2:14 – 39)
2. Peter's Gospel Sermon at the Temple (Acts 3:12-26)
3. A Summary of Peter's Gospel Preaching (Acts 4:5-12)
4. Peter's Gospel Sermon for Gentiles (Acts 10:34-43) – *we'll be looking at this next week*
5. Paul's Gospel Sermon in Antioch (Acts 13:16-41)
6. Paul's Brief Gospel Message in Lystra (Acts 14:8-17)
7. Paul's Gospel Sermon in the Areopagus of Athens (17:22-31)

Prayer

Peter called on Jesus' name for a man's physical healing, and God performed a miracle to heal the man. Does anyone among your family, friends or neighbours need healing today? Pray for that person or those people.

The Good News inspired and empowered the Apostles to continue Jesus' mission of healing. Healing can take many forms – in ancient Greek there is one word that means healing, rescue and salvation. How might God be calling you to bring healing and health to the people who live around you? Take some time to reflect and pray for God's guidance.

Close your time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer.