

## PETER ANSWERS THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

**REVIEW: Acts 3:2-16 & 4:1-31**

**MAIN STORY: Acts 4:5-31**

3:2-6 Peter and John healed a crippled man at the temple. 15-16 They did it by the power of Jesus' name. Then they told all the people at the temple, "God made Jesus alive again." 4:1 The religious leaders 2 were very angry, because Peter and John were teaching the people: Jesus is alive again. 3 So the religious leaders arrested Peter and John. 4 But many people believed in Jesus. Now, the total who believed was about 5000 men.

5 The next day the religious leaders held a meeting. 7 The religious leaders asked Peter and John: "By what power did you heal the crippled man? Whose name did you use to heal the crippled man?"

8 Peter was filled with God's Holy Spirit. He said, 10 "We healed the crippled man by the name of Jesus Christ. You killed Jesus, but God made Jesus alive again. 11 Jesus is the most important person – but you rejected Jesus. 12 No one else can save us – only Jesus can save us. Under the whole heaven, Jesus is the only name that God gives people to be saved."

13 The religious leaders looked at Peter and John. The religious leaders thought: Peter and John are very brave. Then the religious leaders thought: But Peter and John do not have a good education – they are ordinary men. So the religious leaders were amazed. Then the religious leaders realized: Peter and John have been with Jesus!

14 Then the religious leaders looked at the man who was crippled. Now he could walk! So the religious leaders could say nothing to Peter and John.

16 The religious leaders said to each other, "What are we going to do with Peter and John? 17 More and more people are believing in Jesus – so we must stop this." 18 Then the religious leaders said to Peter and John, "You must stop talking about Jesus."

19 But Peter and John answered, "What do you think is right? Does God want us to obey you? Or does God want us to obey God?"

20 "We cannot stop talking about Jesus. We must tell what we have seen and heard about Jesus."

21 The religious leaders did not know how to punish Peter and John – because all the people were praising God because the crippled man could walk. So the religious leaders let Peter and John go.

23Peter and John went back to their people. 24They prayed to God together. 29They prayed, “Lord, the religious leaders are threatening us. So help us to talk about Jesus boldly. 30Please do amazing miracles by the name of Jesus – and heal many people.”

31After they prayed, the place started to shake. And the Holy Spirit filled the believers. And the believers all spoke God’s Word boldly.

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why were the religious leaders angry? (Acts 4:1)
- What did the religious leaders ask Peter and John? (verse 7)
- What made Peter bold? (verse 8)
- How did Peter heal the crippled man? (verse 10)
- What did God do for Jesus? (verse 10)
- Why is Jesus special? Why is Jesus unique? (verses 11-12)

Who else died for us? Who else died to make us live forever?

- What did the religious leaders think of Peter and John? (verse 13)

Were Peter and John afraid of what other people thought?  
Were they afraid of what the religious leaders thought?

- Why were Peter and John brave? (verse 8, and the end of verse 13)

How did being with Jesus help the disciples be brave?  
What do you think?

- Why couldn't the religious leaders punish Peter and John? (verses 14, 21)
- Why did the religious leaders want to stop Peter and John? (verse 17)
  - So what did the religious leaders command Peter and John to do? (verse 18)
- What did Peter and John answer the religious leaders? (verse 19)
- Who did Peter and John obey? (verse 19)

Who do you think we should obey?  
Should we obey Creator God? Or should we do what people say?

Which is easier for us? To do what God says, or what people say? Why?

- What did Peter and John want to do the most? (verse 20)
- What did the religious leaders do to Peter and John? (verse 21)
- What things did Peter and John (and the other believers in Jesus) ask God to do?  
(verse 29)
- Why did the disciples need to be filled with the Holy Spirit? (verses 29 & 31)

Why do you think it is sometimes hard to talk about Jesus?