EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 3:1-4:31

INTRODUCTION & PRAYER

In the passage last week, we studied the day of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous way. The gift of the Holy Spirit, the “Helper” as Jesus called him, is so very important in our lives as believers. The importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives, particularly in how He enables us to worship the triune God and live out the gospel, is so evident in God’s Word. In this week’s passage, we will examine further implications of the Holy Spirit’s power in us. With the Holy Spirit living in us, we are able to love God and others rightly and intentionally. Our love for God should push us into the world as we share the good news that Christ died for sinners and that salvation is available to those who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord. Peter and John offered a man who was lame something better than money—healing and salvation in Jesus. Because we have experienced the miracle of our salvation from sin and new life in Jesus, we follow the example of the early Christians as we boldly and graciously proclaim the gospel and minister to those in need. Before you begin your study, pray with your family as you get started. Ask God to make His Word alive and active in your life as you seek to honor him each and every day.

READ THE PASSAGE

Read the passage out loud with your household (if you have kids, let them participate):

- Acts 3:1-4:31

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE

Study the Passage by discussing these questions:

- What stood out or caught your attention in this passage?
- What does this passage teach you about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?
- What does this passage teach you about people?

PASSAGE OUTLINE

Here is a helpful outline of the passage, with main points:

- God’s people have something better to offer the world. (Acts 3:1-7)
- God’s people give glory and praise to Jesus. (Acts 3:11-16)
- God’s people call others to repentance so they can experience refreshing. (Acts 3:17-20)
APPLY THE PASSAGE

Go a little deeper with these questions:

• When was a time you didn’t realize how helpful something was until it was gone?
• What are some ways the condition of the man who was lame compares with our sinful state apart from Jesus?
• Why should we consider the gospel of Jesus a better gift than silver or gold, or even a healing?
• Why might we find it so difficult to give glory to Jesus for the works He accomplishes in our lives and through us?
• Why is ignorance not a valid excuse for sin?
• What steps can you take to focus your life on obeying and giving glory to Jesus Christ?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Read and discuss the big picture of this passage:
Once the Holy Spirit was given, the disciples began boldly proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit displayed the power of God’s kingdom through the miracles the disciples performed in Jesus’ name for His glory and praise.

ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE: INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

The inspiration of Scripture refers to God’s direction of the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded His message to humankind in their original writings (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21). Occasionally this inspiration was achieved through dictation, where God spoke directly to the original authors. Most of the time, however, this inspiration was achieved through the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit through the personalities of the authors so that their writings can be considered the very words of God).

PRAYER POINTS

Pray together with those in your home for these and any other prayer requests.

• Thank God for the new life we have through the power of the Holy Spirit.
• Ask God to help you trust the Spirit’s leading to make much of Jesus each day.
• Ask God to give you eyes to see the world and people around you as He sees them.
• Pray for the physical and spiritual needs of your family and friends.
• Pray for your family members and friends that are not believers.
• Pray for the leaders and the needs of our church, community, nation and world.
CHRIST CONNECTION FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Read aloud and discuss the big picture of this passage with your kids:
After Jesus went back to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave Jesus’ followers power to begin working. With the power of Jesus’ name, Peter healed a man who could not walk. The religious leaders could not stop Jesus’ followers from telling people the good news about Jesus.

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH PRESCHOOLERS

For Videos and Activity Sheets for preschoolers, visit hunterstreetsmallgroups.org.
- Use the password: “hsbcstudents”.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

DON’T STOP TALKING
- For this game, pick someone to be the “Talker” and everyone else are “Listeners”. Set a timer for one minute. Challenge the Talker to talk for a full minute. Suggest topics to talk about, such as favorite food, pets, a time when he or she was sick. After a minute, change roles and play again.
- Say: Wow! You guys can talk! In today’s Bible story, some religious leaders told Peter and John to be quiet and stop talking about Jesus. Peter and John told the leaders that they could not keep quiet. They had to tell people about what they had seen and heard. We don’t ever want to be quiet about Jesus!

MOVE TO THE SHAPE
- Use painter’s tape to make large outlines of a triangle, rectangle, square, and diamond on the floor. Give each of your kids a chance to move to a certain shape either walking, leaping, or praising God, just like the man from the story today.
- Say: You moved to the shapes like the man who was healed moved to the temple! After Peter healed the man who could not walk, everyone who saw him was amazed. The religious leaders wanted Peter and John to stop talking about Jesus and helping people, but Peter said that they could not stop telling people about the good news of Jesus.
CHRIST CONNECTION FOR KIDS

Read aloud and discuss the big picture of this passage with your kids:
After Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to begin working. With the power of Jesus’ name, Peter healed a man who was lame. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus’ followers from sharing the good news about Jesus.

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS

For Videos and Activity Sheets for younger and older kids, visit hunterstreetsmallgroups.org.
- Use the password: “hsbcstudents”.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

BIBLE SKILLS & REVIEW

- Point out Jerusalem on a New Testament Israel Map (like in the back of your Bible). Explain that this is the location where today’s story took place. Ask your kids to open their Bibles to Acts 3. Choose someone to read aloud Acts 3:6.

- Say: Peter told the man that he had no money to give, but Peter said he would give the man what he did have in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ask the following questions and talk about the answers:

1. What do you think the man needed more—money or healing? Why? Help kids recognize the man had spent his life begging for money, but Peter, through the power of the Holy Spirit, was able to give the man much more than money. He was able to give him the gift of a healed body. God has the power to do more than we could ever even imagine. (Option: Let someone read Ephesians 3:20.)

2. How did Peter and John’s confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit help affect the way Peter and John shared the good news? Help kids recognize that Peter and John were able to speak boldly because they knew they had the power of the Holy Spirit. All believers can have the confidence to share the truth of the gospel with boldness. (Option: Let someone read Romans 1:16.)

3. Why should I trust God with my wants and needs? Help kids recognize that God’s plans are so much better than anything we could want or plan for ourselves. (Option: Let someone read Isaiah 55:8.)

MAKE A FLIPBOOK

- Guide your kids to use index cards and binder clips to create a flipbook of truths from Scripture about the Holy Spirit’s power in all who follow Jesus. List the Scripture references on a dry erase board or large sheet of paper:

  - Luke 12:12
  - Romans 5:5
  - 1 Corinthians 6:19
  - John 14:26
  - Romans 8:26

Let your kids find the verses and read them aloud. Encourage the kids to write down the verses on their index cards.

- Say: I hope that you will take these truths we learn from the Bible and carry them with you in your backpack, or place them somewhere where you will see them.
RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS
For additional resources for students, visit hunterstreetsmallgroups.org.
  • Use the password: “hsbcstudents”.

FURTHER STUDY FOR FAMILIES WITH STUDENTS

ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE: INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE
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DEEPER DISCUSSION

HEAD
  • Why is it so important that we have right theological understanding? According to Peter in Acts 2:22-24 and 2:38, how is someone saved?
  • How can we make sure we don’t, like the Pharisees, know the Scriptures but miss Jesus?

HEART
  • How can we make sure that our understanding of Scripture translates into love?
  • How does love for God and others impact our call to carry the gospel to all people?

HANDS
  • What are specific ways we are called to meet the physical needs of others?
  • How can we use acts of service to help people understand the gospel?

FAMILY CHALLENGE
Discuss as a family how you can meet the physical needs of others as mentioned above. Brainstorm how each of you can be involved, but also talk about what spiritual needs also need to be met. Finally, pray together over all the needs, then ask the power of the Holy Spirit to do a work through your family this week.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS
  • What are some physical needs that we can address for someone else this week?
  • Why is it important to not just address spiritual needs?
  • How do we respond when God in our lives?
  • In what ways can we make God known to those around us?