

My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 11 - Acts 3:11-26

Summary of this week's teaching: Last week we covered the account of the Holy Spirit healing a lame man (through Peter). This week's passage begins to detail the aftermath of that miraculous healing. Once the healed man began to walk, leap, and praise the Lord inside the temple, a great crowd gathered to see what had happened. Peter, capitalizing on the situation, preaches another gospel message to the gathered crowd, encouraging them to "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus..."

Connect: Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. How did you celebrate Independence Day?

Seed: The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 3:11-26.

1. Effective sermons are very personal in nature. In his sermon, Peter used the words "you" and "your" twenty-three times. What are some of the things Peter accuses the crowd of? What are some things that he offers the crowd through faith in Christ?
2. Does it feel like Peter is unnecessarily hard on the crowd? Why do you think that he made such a big deal of the peoples' sin?
3. What else stands out to you about this passage?

Roots: Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. In his sermon, Peter promises "times of refreshing" from the Lord. Have you experienced such times before? If so, what have these times looked like for you, and how have they served to draw you closer to God?

Trunk: Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. In what ways is Jesus the Author of Life? How do we experience Him in this way, and how does that affect our faith in Him?
2. What else does this passage teach us about faith?

Crown: Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. What does it look like for us to repent and turn back so that our sins may be blotted out? How can we lovingly encourage others to do the same?

