

### Summary of this week's teaching: Act 4:1-22

This week we looked at the results of the miracle that was performed on the lame man. The response to the miracle was not unanimous. We explored the impact that witnessing a miracle has on people. We also see that this was the first time Christ's followers came up against the ruling religious men. The response to the message that Peter preaches gives us an insight into the hearts of the religious leaders and foreshadows what the early believers were about to face. We also looked at whether our response to Jesus is about what He does, like the miracle, or who is in our everyday lives. We are left with the question: do I believe with my whole being that He is the way the truth and the life? More importantly, does my life show it?

**Connect:** Relational questions to get conversations started.

- 1) Have you witnessed a miracle or heard about one? How do you think you would react if you saw or heard of one?

**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) Act 4:1-22.

- 1) How did Peter's words differ from that of the people he was sharing it with?
- 2) What was the result of Peter's message to the crowd that day?
- 3) How many were added to the church? How would you react to such an outpouring if it happened today at Anthem?

**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) Peter and John were attacked for their bold proclamation. How do you think you would do being criticized for your faith? How do you respond to criticism?
- 2) We read in 2 Timothy 4:2-3 that we are to be ready to give an account for the faith in us. What can we be doing on a daily basis to prepare us for sharing as Peter did?

**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) How did Peter and John respond to the threats from the council?
- 2) Why do you think Peter and John insisted on teaching about Jesus despite the threats?

**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 lessons about boldness and obedience can be learned from Peter and John's example?

