

# Abide in Me

**John 15:4**

*Bible studies for disciples  
who make disciples*



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*Telling the Truth*

**The Gospel Changes Everything**

Acts 3:11-26; Acts 4:5-12

After the first miracle of the messianic age, Peter preached his second sermon to an astonished crowd. It bears some striking resemblances to his first sermon on Pentecost as he calls the Jewish people to repent for their role in killing Jesus and exhorts them to turn to God for forgiveness. Upon their reception of Jesus as the Messiah, whom all the prophets pointed to, he unwraps some staggering promises that show how the Gospel changes everything. In Acts 4, Peter boldly preaches another sermon to the Jewish leaders about the uniqueness and exclusivity of Jesus Christ.

## READING PETER'S SERMON

Acts 3:11-26

- In verses 14-16 circle all the occurrences of the pronoun *you*.
- In verse 13 place a  $\Delta$  over the titles Peter gives to God in verse 13.
- In the left margin of verse 13 write *Isaiah 53*.
- Place brackets around all the different titles Peter applies to Jesus.
- Place parenthesis around the two commands in verse 19.
- Place => above the three occurrences of the conjunction *that* in verses 19-20.
- In the left margin of verse 21 write *Matthew 19:27-29* and *Revelation 21:5*.
- Double underline the word *blessed* (v. 25) and *bless* in verse 26.

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. 12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

17 "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. 22 Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' 24 And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. 25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' 26 God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

In Peter's third sermon, he and John were being cross-examined by the Jewish hierarchy. When asked about the healing of the disabled beggar, Peter testified with Spirit-acquired boldness that Jesus is the only means of salvation for all people.

### READING PETER'S SERMON

Acts 4:5-12

- Double underline in verse 8 the phrase, *filled with the Holy Spirit*.
- Circle all the occurrences of *you* in verses 10-11.
- Place a bracket around the phrase *the cornerstone*.
- In the left margin of verse 11 write *Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22 and Matthew 21:42*.

5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

### EXPLORING PETER'S SERMONS TOGETHER

1. Read Acts 3:1-10 since the healing of the disabled beggar is backdrop for both sermons Peter preached in Acts 3 and 4.

- What did Peter believe in order to say what he did in 3:6?
- Are you confident that what Jesus has given you is important enough to share with others?
- How have you used an event or a personal experience as an opportunity to share Christ?

2. What are some of the similarities between the two sermons preached by Peter in Acts 3 and 4 with his Pentecost sermon? What are some differences?

3. How did Peter set the scene in 3:13-15 to speak out against the actions of those who crucified Jesus?

4. Consider the different names and titles Peter attributes to Jesus. What are they and how do they help us understand Peter's message?

5. According to Peter, why did certain Jews mistreat Jesus (3:17)? What did he mean and is this an excuse for being guilty?

6. What did Peter tell his audience to do in order to be forgiven of their sins (3:19)?

7. What results would follow if Peter's audience responded to his words (3:19-21)? Explore the importance of each:

- That ...
- That ...
- That ...

8. Discuss further Peter's reference to the restoration of all things in verse 21. From whom did Peter learn about this? Read Matthew 19:27-29 and Revelation 21:5. How does this coming reality change everything?

9. Peter's sermon in Acts 4 was in response to Gospel-opposition. How have you experienced resistance to the Gospel, whether subtle or overt? How do you respond to such resistance?

10. The exclusivity of Jesus expressed in 4:12 is not a popular subject in our world today. If we do not shy away from this truth, what can we expect (cf. 2 Timothy 3:12)?

11. What can we learn from Peter's example about actively telling the truth to others?

**Next Week:** Acts 10:28-47

