

Acts 3:11-26

June 22, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

Once he had the attention of the crowds in Solomon's Colonnade, Peter acted as Jesus's witness, sharing the truth of the good news and calling those gathered to repent and follow Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What have you taken away from our study of Acts so far?

How have we seen God glorified through the actions and words of His people?

Last week, we studied the account of Peter and John healing a lame man at the temple. As the newly healed man reacted with joy, the crowds looked on with amazement. In our passage today, having the crowd's attention, Peter seized the moment for the Lord's glory.



UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 3:11-16.

What various names for God and Jesus did Peter use in his sermon? What aspects of God's character and authority do these names highlight?

How did Peter say the people were guilty before Jesus? How was this literally and physically true for many of them? How is this spiritually true for all people?

Verse 11 sets the scene: The man Peter and John healed was holding onto them, attracting crowds of astonished people in Solomon's Colonnade, which was part of the temple complex (John 10:23).

Peter seized the moment to share the good news of Jesus. Since the crowds present around prayer time would've been mostly comprised of Jews, Peter addressed his audience as "Fellow Israelites" (v. 12), establishing connection from the start.

When we keep our eyes and hearts open, the Holy Spirit will show us how and when to take advantage of moments for the glory of God and the spread of the gospel, too. Like Peter, we can effectively share the good news when we connect with those listening.

Peter refuted the idea that he and John had anything to do with the healing of the joyful man; Jesus was responsible for healing him. This was the same Jesus the people had rejected. Not only did the Jews hand Jesus over to Pilate, who tried to release Him (v.13), but they also chose for the murderer and insurrectionist Barabbas to be set free instead (v.14). They "killed the source of life" (v.15), but the story didn't end there. As Peter and John witnessed, God raised Jesus from the dead, and the man had been healed through Jesus's name.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 3:17-21.

What did Peter encourage the people to do in these verses?

What did Peter share about Jesus?

How does this apply to our lives today?

Before we can accept and follow Jesus, we must understand our status as sinners and our need for Him. Conviction comes before conversion. Peter's sermon up to this point had been designed to convict. (Though the Holy Spirit ultimately convicts us, Peter was the Holy Spirit's willing instrument in this setting.)



Peter said the people acted in ignorance and pointed out that Jesus's suffering was the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy (Isaiah 53) — a prophecy Peter's Jewish audience would have been familiar with. Having established Jesus as the Messiah, Peter called the people to "repent and turn back" to God so their sins would be forgiven (Acts 3:19; see also Ephesians 1:7). "The restoration of all things" Peter referred to in verse 21 is the second coming of Jesus.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 3:22-26.

How did Peter specifically cater his message to his Jewish audience?

How would quoting the prophets support His message? How can we use the Scriptures to point others to Jesus?

How did God fulfill His promise to Abraham (vv. 25-26)?

Peter made clear that God had been pointing to Jesus since the beginning. Jesus was always God's plan for salvation. In verse 22, Peter paraphrased Moses's words from Deuteronomy 18:15-19. The prophet Moses referred to was Jesus, but Moses wasn't the only one who spoke about Him; Peter specifically mentioned Samuel and Abraham as well.

In Genesis 22:18, God told Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through his offspring. As Peter spelled out in verse 26, God fulfilled that promise by sending Jesus. Peter's audience had an invitation to blessing, and so do we. The "how" here isn't always easy, but it is simple: turn away from sin and turn toward Jesus, believing in Him and accepting His gift of salvation.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Peter started his sermon by making a connection with his audience. What are some ways we can connect with those around us for God's glory?

What aspects of Peter's sermon can we learn from and apply when we share the gospel today?

Where do you have opportunity to share Jesus with others? How will you respond?



PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Thank God for sending Jesus. Thank Him for creating a way for our sins to be forgiven forever. Ask for His help as your group thinks about how you can boldly share the good news like Peter. Ask for God to open doors and show you when and how to share.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

June 29, 2025 --- Acts 4:1-31

COMMENTARY

Acts 3:11-26

3:8–11 The sight attracted a great deal of attention. The response was awe and astonishment.

3:12 Recognizing that the onlookers were amazed, Peter seized the chance to testify about Jesus Christ. Signs of God's power can point to the truth about Jesus (John 3:2; 14:11).

3:13–15 Peter told his hearers in Solomon's Colonnade, which was part of the temple complex, that Jesus Christ was God's servant. And yet the people had handed him over to Pilate and denied him, even though Pilate had judged him to be innocent (Luke 23:20–25). Peter emphasized the heinous nature of this deed by calling Jesus the Holy and Righteous One and by noting that they had asked Pilate to release a murderer in place of Jesus. Thus they killed the source of life instead of one who had taken life. But God raised Jesus from the dead, a fact to which both Peter and John were witnesses.

3:16 Peter and John had a chance to claim credit for the miraculous healing of the man, but instead insisted that it was faith in Jesus's name that made this man strong. The apostles were merely God's chosen instruments for conveying the miracle.

3:17 Ignorance here is not an excuse but is culpable, making repentance necessary.

3:18 The prophecy that the Messiah would suffer is an apparent reference to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 52:13–53:12. The suffering of the servant for sins (Isaiah 53:10) had been fulfilled through Jesus.



3:19 On the basis of what he had said about who Jesus was, how he was treated by the Jewish people, and how God had vindicated him by raising him from the dead, Peter called on his audience to repent and turn back to God so that their sins may be wiped out.

3:20–21 Early Christians looked with expectation to the second coming of Jesus and the restoration of all things that accompanies the establishment of his earthly kingdom. God had foretold the time of “restoration” through the prophets, starting as far back as Moses (v. 22; see also Romans 8:18–25).

3:22–24 Peter appealed to Deuteronomy 18:15–19, where Moses foretold Israel that God will raise up for you a prophet like me. Over time this came to be recognized as a Messianic prophecy. Anyone who rejects the Messiah will be completely cut off from God’s people. Peter also appealed to all the prophets throughout Israel’s history, for all of them had foretold these days. Jesus himself taught the apostles to recognize this about the Old Testament (Luke 24:27).

3:25–26 The Jews listening to Peter were sons of the prophets and inheritors of the covenant God made with Abraham. Thus they had a personal stake in the words of the prophets and the Pentateuch, but so do all the peoples of earth. After all, God’s covenant with Abraham promised that all the earth would be blessed through Abraham’s seed, a reference ultimately to Jesus Christ, God’s servant.

