

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?

INTRODUCTION

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

Make a List: Ways We Could Share Jesus with Our Friends

Today, we will read a story about Peter sharing the good news about Jesus with people in the temple. Before we get started, we are going to make a list of ways we can share Jesus with our friends.

Place students in several small groups. Explain that Peter catered his message to be particularly meaningful for his Jewish audience. Before they start, encourage students to think about how they can build connections with others and what they can do to share creatively like Peter. Then, give students ten minutes to make a list of ways they can share Jesus with friends. When the timer runs out, invite each group to share their favorite ideas.

DISCUSSION

🌱 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 3:11-26.

What names for God and Jesus did Peter use in his sermon? What do they show you about God's character and authority?

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?

What did Peter encourage the people to do in verses 17-21?

What did Peter share about Jesus?

How does this apply to our lives today?

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

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

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

GOING DEEPER

What is the benefit of communicating the gospel in a way that makes connections and builds bridges with others?

What are some unique opportunities you might have to do this at school or other places you spend a lot of time?

APPLICATION

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 parts 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? What steps will you take to share Jesus in those places this week?

PRAYER

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 share the good news boldly like Peter. Ask for God to open doors and to 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.