



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 8



Peter's Second Sermon

Acts 3:11-26

Supplemental Scripture

Acts 4:4
Philippians 2:12-18
Hebrews 12:1-2

Memory Verse

Shine as you hold out to them the Word of Life.
Philippians 2:16 (NIRV)

Lesson Goals

- Understand that our obedience to Christ can lead others to Him
- Understand our role in Jesus' death
- Understand that to follow Christ, means to turn away from sin

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Have you ever watched a track meet and been mesmerized by a certain runner? They ran the race so well that you couldn't take your eyes off of them. You thought about their race afterwards and wanted to run like them. Let's see how Peter "runs the race" this week.

Who remembers what our last lesson was about? A lame man, a beggar. What happened to him? Peter and John healed him. What a miracle! Something else happened in the temple that day, and it happened because of the miracle. Let's see what it was!

After the lame man stood up and began walking and jumping and praising God through the temple area, he stayed close to John and Peter, even holding on to them. At this point, they were at Solomon's Porch, a part of the temple complex outside of the actual temple. The people were amazed! They ran to Peter and John and the man who had once been lame. "Why are you surprised?," Peter called out. "Why are you looking at us like we healed this man with our own power? God did this. He did it to glorify His Son, Jesus Christ." Peter continued, "But you killed Him. Pilate was going to let Him go, but you wouldn't let him. You spoke against Jesus, who had done nothing wrong, and you even asked for a murderer to go free instead." Peter said, "You killed the One who gives life, but God raised Him from the dead." (Acts 3:15 NIRV) "And it was faith in this same Jesus that made this lame man walk. All of you saw it happen!"

Peter told the people that he knew that they didn't really understand what they were doing when they had Jesus crucified. He encouraged them to turn away from their sins and to turn to God. "Then your sins will be wiped away. The time will come when the Lord will make everything new." (Acts 3:19b NIRV) Peter was telling the people that Jesus would come back one day. He will remain in Heaven until God is ready to make everything new. Those who trust in Jesus will be with Him forever in this new place.

Application

Whose example do you follow? As children, we learn to walk and talk from following the example of our parents or siblings.

The older we get, the more we emulate our friends and other adults we look up to. Have you surrounded yourself with good, wise, and godly friends? If not, will you commit to do that today? Jesus has left us an example. We should follow in His steps.

And if you have been wise enough to choose to surround yourself with good examples, are you following the example they are setting by being like Christ to you? Are you that example for someone else? Being that good example will open doors to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. “Shine as you hold out to them the Word of Life.” (Philippians 2:16 NIV)

The people who had seen Peter heal the begging lame man heard an amazing message from him. They saw the miracle, and because of it, they listened to the message. Acts 4:4 (NIV) tells us that, “many who heard the message believed. The number of men who believed grew to about 5,000.”

When we do the right thing, people notice. Peter and John saw the beggar, spoke to him, and helped him. Because they did the right thing, they were able to lead the beggar and others to Christ. Will you commit to follow Peter’s example? He followed Christ’s example. “Shine as you hold out to them the Word of Life.” (Philippians 2:16 NIV) Run like a star!

Review

1. Who followed Peter and John? (The lame man who had been healed.)
2. Who, because of their amazement, came running up to Peter, John and the lame man? (the crowd)
3. Where were Peter and John when the crowd approached them? (At Solomon’s Porch, inside the temple complex)
4. What did Peter tell the people? (Turn away from sin, turn to God, and your sins will be wiped away.)
5. How did the people respond? (Many believed.)

Next Week
Peter and John Arrested
Acts 4:1-31

Preschool Lesson

Peter and John had healed a lame man. The lame man stood up and began walking and jumping and praising God through the temple area. After that, he stayed close to John and Peter; he even held on to them. They were at Solomon's Porch, a part of the temple complex outside of the actual temple. The people who had seen the miracle were amazed! They ran to Peter and John and the man who had once been lame. "Why are you surprised?," Peter called out. "Why are you looking at us like we healed this man with our own power. God did this. He did it to glorify His Son, Jesus Christ."

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When we do the right thing, people notice. Peter and John saw the beggar, spoke to him, and helped him. Because they did the right thing, they were able to lead the beggar and others to Christ. Will you follow Peter's example? He followed Christ's example.

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Print each of the words (and the reference) of the memory verse on separate pieces of paper. String a line across your meeting area and provide clothespins. Help your students hang the verse in order. Talk about what it means.

If you are not already visiting with your students, set a day and begin. Start with those who have come to Bible Study before but haven't been in a while. Continue with those around you who haven't visited yet.

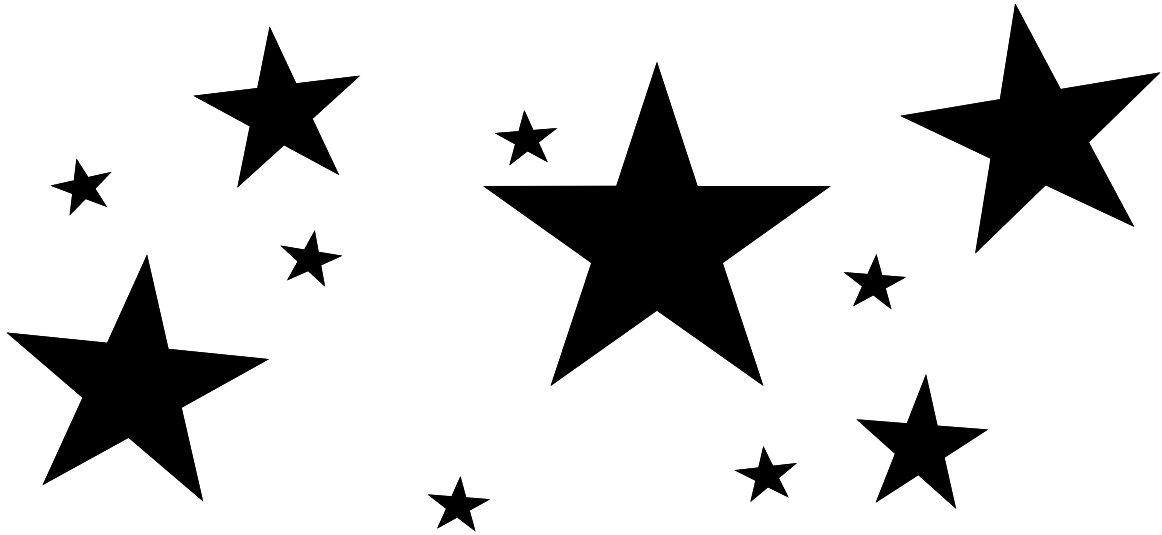
Locate the temple on a map of Jerusalem. Locate Solomon's Porch and the Beautiful Gate on a diagram of the temple.

If your students are mathematically inclined, talk about the exponential growth of Acts 2-3. What would happen if one day you led just two people to Christ, and the next day they each led two more to Christ, and so on? Do the math. How many people would be added to the body of Christ in a month? A year? Five years?

Share about the importance of following good examples as well as being a good example. Look at Hebrews 12:1-2; as well as Hebrews 11 if time permits. Discuss how to be a good example and run the race well.

Look at Philippians 2:12-18. Discuss how these verses strengthen today's lesson.

Play "Follow the Leader."



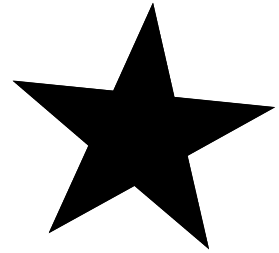
Shine

as you hold out to them
the Word of Life.

Philippians 2:16

Racing Riddles

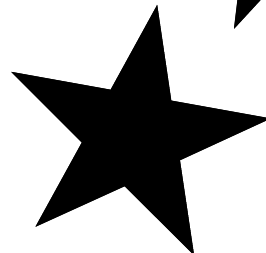
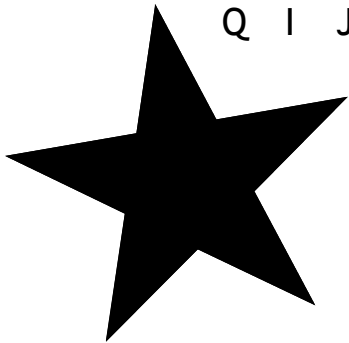
Fill in the spaces below with the letter that comes before the one printed below the space. For example: If the letter under the space is an O, you will write an N on the line.



S H I N E A S Y O U H O L D O U T T O
T I J O F B T Z P V I P M E P V U U P

T H E M T H E W O R D O F L I F E .
U I F N U I F X P S E P G M J G F

P H I L I P P I A N S 2 : 1 6
Q I J M J Q Q J B O T



Word Search

l o m o s p o r i p s y b w
r h a g t f i t u n i h s o
e r a g g e b a e u t e o r
v e a e e v m e f f l a l d
e t m b e l i p i p s u o o
i e o i r j j h l p e t m g
s p n e e e t e f e r i o r
o e f i v e t h o u s a n d
n o g o h d l o d u e u s s
w o p e i s r j r a t e p i
e f g e s a i m o r p g o r
n i r o o c e t w a r a r t
e v e i l e b y n a m t c e
g e t s u r t r a g j o h n

beggar

five thousand

temple

Solomon's porch

Peter

John

many believe

shine

Word of Life

Word Search

l o m o s p o r i p s y b w
r h a g t f i t u n i h s o
e r a g g e b a e u t e o r
v e a e e v m e f f l a l d
e t m b e l i p i p s u o o
i e o i r j j h l p e t m g
s p n e e e t e f e r i o r
o e f i v e t h o u s a n d
n o g o h d l o d u e u s s
w o p e i s r j r a t e p i
e f g e s a i m o r p g o r
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