

ACTS Launch – “The Message of Miracle” (Acts 3:11-26)

For the week of October 25, 2015

Testimony

Have a volunteer share their testimony (5-10 minutes).

Before Telling the Story

Name three subjects you are completely comfortable talking to people about.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why are you so comfortable talking to others about these subjects? Is talking to others about Jesus easy to do or difficult? Why?

Tell the Story

Peter's second sermon in Acts gives us instruction on how to proclaim the gospel when God opens the opportunity. Let's tell the story! Summarize or tell the story of Acts 3:11-26. Then read the passage and discuss any missing details from the telling of the story. Finally, rebuild the story as a group.

God had just used Peter and John to heal a man who had been lame from birth. A crowd quickly gathered, amazed at what had happened. Peter seized the opportunity and spoke to them. Peter used language and concepts that Jewish people could understand. Fast forward 2,000 years to today. How can you and I relate to people in a manner so that they can connect with the truth of the gospel? Or, what are some ways in speaking to people today about the gospel that would NOT work?

Proclaim the Gospel

1. To proclaim the gospel, we must exalt the Lord Jesus. What does Jesus' name mean to you? How would you explain Jesus to someone?

2. Peter uses numerous titles that apply to Jesus. Here are a few from this passage: Servant (v. 13), Holy and Righteous One (v. 14), Author of Life (v. 15), Prophet (v. 22). Jesus comes from the Hebrew name which means "Yahweh saves." Jesus' name stands for everything that He is. Read and discuss John 14:1-11. What did Jesus say about himself?

3. To proclaim the gospel, we must tell people what Jesus did.

a) He died on the cross. The cross of Christ must be a central feature of our witness. How does the cross humble us? How would you explain the importance of the cross to a nonbeliever?

b) He was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Reread verse 15. Peter boldly declared the gospel. Jesus was raised bodily from the dead. This is a central fact of Christianity. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. How would you explain Jesus' resurrection to a nonbeliever?

c) He is coming back! Jesus will restore all things (v. 21) and bring times of refreshing (v. 19) at His second coming, when God will send Jesus (v. 20), who will be bodily present on earth again (v. 19). He will come again as the Savior of those who believe in Him, and as the Judge of those who disobey Him.

4. To proclaim the gospel, we must confront sinners with their guilt and warn them of impending judgment. Reread verses 13-15 and see how Peter was direct to the people. How would you explain our sin nature to a nonbeliever?

5. To proclaim the gospel, we must offer God's grace to the repentant. Reread verse 19.
a) What is repentance?

b) What is grace (Ephesians 2:8-9)?

c) How would you explain both to a nonbeliever?

Prayer

- For those who have family, friends and acquaintances that do not know the Lord as Savior to accept His free gift of salvation.
- For opportunities to share the gospel.
- For all of us to seize those opportunities, being led by the Spirit.
- To give God all glory in all things!

Bottom Line: To proclaim the gospel, we must exalt the Lord Jesus, confront sinners with their guilt and danger of judgment, and offer God's grace to those who repent.