

**STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS**  
**IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

**Lesson 8 - Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin - [Acts 4:1-22](#)**

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

***Peter and John Arrested***

**4** But while they were still speaking to the people, some priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and several Sadducees broke into their meeting.

**2** They were thoroughly indignant that Peter and John were teaching the people and telling them that Jesus will raise the dead.

**3** So they arrested them and put them in jail until the next day, because it was already late afternoon.

**4** But many who had heard the message believed, so that the total number of men alone who now followed the Lord grew to about five thousand.

**5** The next morning, the Jewish rulers, elders, and teachers of the Law met together in Jerusalem.

**6** Annas the High Priest was there, and Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other members of the High Priest's family.

**7** And when Peter and John had been brought before them, they asked them, "By what power, or by whose authority, have you done this?"

**8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, answered, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:

**9** "If we are being called to task here today for a good deed done for a poor crippled man, as to how he was healed,

**10** then it must be made known to all of you, and to everyone else in Israel, that this man stands here completely well today through the name and power of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah! It was He whom you crucified! But God raised Him back to life!

**11** "He is the One of whom the psalmist said, 'The stone which you builders threw out as worthless has become the all-important cornerstone.' (*Psalm 118:22*)

**12** "No one else can save us! The name of no other person in all the world has been given to mankind by which we can be saved."

13The Council members were amazed at how bold Peter and John were. They knew they were just ordinary men, who had not been educated in their professional rabbinical schools. Then they realized what being with Jesus had done for them.

14And seeing the man who had been healed standing there with them, they couldn't say a word against what Peter had said.

15So after sending them out of the Council room, they conferred among themselves.

16“What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “It's obvious that a remarkable miracle has been done through them, and everyone living in Jerusalem knows about it. So we can't say it didn't happen.

17“But in order to make sure this thing doesn't spread any further among the people, we must severely threaten them that they must never again speak about or use this name in ministering to anyone.”

18Then they called them back in and demanded that they stop all speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus.

19But Peter and John replied, “Do you really believe that God would say we were doing right if we obeyed you instead of Him? What's your judgment?

20“The truth is, we cannot stop talking about the amazing things that we ourselves have both seen and heard.”

21But the Council threatened them further, and then let them go. They found it impossible to punish them without starting a riot, because all the people were glorifying God for what had happened,

22because the man who had been healed by this miracle was over 40 years old.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 8 - Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin - [Acts 4:1-22](#)

101. Why did the religious officials approach Peter and John? ([4:1-2](#)) When?
102. What did the officials do to the apostles? ([4:3](#))
103. In spite of opposition, how did the early church fare? ([4:4](#))
104. After a night in jail, whom did Peter and John face the next day? ([4:5-7](#))
105. To what event did the Jewish leaders refer when they questioned the apostles? ([4:7](#))
106. What empowered Peter to speak? ([4:8](#))

107. How did Peter answer the council's question? ([4:8-10](#))
108. How did Peter's reference to [Psalm 118:22](#) relate to the resurrected Lord? ([4:11](#))
109. How did Peter's remarks about salvation relate to the healed man, the audience, and the Old Testament passage referring to Christ in [Psalm 118:22](#)? ([4:10-12](#))
110. How did the authorities respond to Peter and John? ([4:13-14](#))
111. After the Sanhedrin consulted together, what action did they take against the apostles? ([4:15-17](#))
112. What was the apostles' reply to the judgment handed down by the council? ([4:18-20](#))
113. Why was the Sanhedrin powerless to take action against Peter and John? ([4:21](#))
114. How old was the man who had been healed? ([4:22](#))
115. What was amazing about the healing that caused this controversy? ([4:22](#))

### **Lesson 9 - The Believers' Prayer - [Acts 4:23-31](#)**

#### ***The Lord's Followers Pray for Courage***

<sup>23</sup>After they were released, Peter and John went back to their fellow believers and told them all that the leading priests and elders had said to them.

<sup>24</sup>When the others heard the report, they all joined their voices together in prayer to God. "O Lord," they said, "You are God! It is You who made Heaven and earth and the sea, and everything in them.

<sup>25</sup>"By the mouth of Your servant David You said:

Why are the people of the world so furious? Why do they vainly imagine they can defeat God's plans?\*

\*Acts 4:25 – "Why do they vainly imagine they can defeat God's plans?\*" ... *against God Almighty*.

<sup>26</sup>The rulers of the earth have taken their stand. They have actually joined forces against God Almighty and against His Messiah! (***Psalm 2:1-2***)

<sup>27</sup>"Because Herod and Pontius Pilate did indeed join together with the Gentiles\* and the people of Israel in this city against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You have anointed *as the Messiah*.

\*Acts 4:27 – "Gentiles."\* All who are not Jews.

28“They have done everything that, by Your power and will, You had already decided would be done.

29“Now, Lord, listen to how they are threatening, and enable us, Your servants, to continue to speak Your message with great boldness.

30“Stretch out Your hand to heal, and may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”

31When they had finished praying, the building in which they were meeting shook! And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and continued to boldly give God’s message to everyone.

## DISCUSSIONS QUESTIONS

### Lesson 9 - The Believers' Prayer - [Acts 4:23-31](#)

116. Where did Peter and John go after they were released by the Sanhedrin? ([4:23](#))
117. How did the believers respond to the apostles’ report? ([4:24](#))
118. In the prayer, how did the believers express their view of the persecution they faced? ([4:24-26](#))
119. How did the believers use the Psalms in their prayer? ([4:25-26](#))
120. How was God’s hand in all that was plotted and done against Jesus? ([4:27-28](#))
121. How would God orchestrate the destruction and defeat of Jesus’ enemies? ([4:28-30](#))
122. What did the Christians ask God to do? ([4:29-30](#))
123. How would the believers be enabled to carry out God’s work? ([4:30](#))
124. What was the effect of the believers’ prayer? ([4:31](#))
125. What did the Christians experience and do after they finished praying? ([4:31](#))

### Lesson 10 - The Believers Share Their Possessions - [Acts 4:32-37](#)

#### *The Followers Share Their Possessions*

32All of the many believers were of one heart and mind. No one claimed that anything he owned was his own, but they all shared what they had with each other.

33 And with great power the apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God richly blessed all of them.

34 No one among them lacked anything, because those who owned houses or lands would *from time to time*\* sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales to the apostles.

\*Acts 4:34 – “From time to time.”\* Implied from imperfect tense.

35 They would then distribute the money to each one according to his need.

36 For example, Joseph, a Levite born in Cyprus who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which means Son of Encouragement),

37 sold some land he owned, and brought the money in and turned it over to the apostles.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 10 - The Believers Share Their Possessions - [Acts 4:32-37](#)

126. What attitude did the believers have toward one another? ([4:32](#))

127. How did the Christians show their unity? ([4:32](#))

128. How effective was the apostles' witness? ([4:33](#))

129. What godly quality enhanced the unity and service of the early Christians? ([4:33](#))

130. How was the command of [Deuteronomy 15:4](#) exemplified by the members of the early church? ([4:34-35](#))

131. What did some better-off Christians do from time to time? ([4:34-35](#))

132. Why were there no needy persons among the members of the early church? ([4:34](#))

133. Who dealt with the common fund of the church? ([4:35](#))

134. How did the early wealthy believers disburse the money they got from selling their lands or houses? ([4:35](#))

135. Who was Joseph? ([4:36](#))

136. Who was Barnabas? ([4:36](#))

137. What was exemplary about Barnabas? ([4:36-37](#))

138. How was Barnabas' generosity singled out? ([4:36-37](#))

139. What did Barnabas do? ([4:37](#))