

**THE CHURCH'S WITNESS IN JERUSALEM (2)****Witness of Peter and the Apostles****Acts 3:1–4:31**

**Memory Verse:** *"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12 ESV).

**Background Helps:**

This week's readings encompass an initial event (the healing of a congenital cripple) and the results which flowed from that event. Here is a brief outline of the events:

1. A congenital cripple is healed (3:1-10)
2. The apostle Peter preaches to the crowd (3:11-20)
3. The opposition of the Jewish leaders is aroused (4:1-22)
4. The believers pray for boldness to witness, despite opposition (4:23-31)

Here we have the first attack on the infant church in Jerusalem and the church's response to it.

**Lesson Helps:**

Suggested Aim: My students will learn about the bold witness of the apostles Peter and John in Jerusalem, so that they will boldly witness for Christ this week.

In your lesson help your students to discover some key principles for witnessing from the example of Peter and John. For example:

- Turning an event into an opportunity for witness. The healing of the cripple and the trial before the Sanhedrin were both turned into witnessing opportunities by the apostles.
- Preaching Christ. Notice the content of Peter's two messages in chapters 3 and 4.
- The filling of the Holy Spirit (4:8, 31)
- Prayer for boldness, (not for protection!), despite opposition (4:23-31)
- Etc. (you find other helpful principles)

Especially draw attention to the courage and boldness of these early Christians (4:13, 18-21, 31). Have definite prayer in class for a new filling of the Holy Spirit and for such boldness to witness this week. Agree together to make this a daily prayer. Alert everyone to look for witnessing opportunities. Give suggestions on how to create a witnessing opportunity through use of a tract, etc. Warn them to expect some opposition. Ask for testimonies next week of the results. (Did you ask such testimonies this week based on last week's lesson in Acts 1 and 2?)

**Home Assignment:**

 Read Acts 4:32–6:7.

 Memorize Acts 5:29.