

**Peter, the Apostle to the Jews**  
**Acts 3–5**

**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 (NIV)

**Background Helps:**

In the early chapters of Acts, we see Peter playing a prominent role in opening the door of faith to his fellow-Jews in the city of Jerusalem. (In fact, in Galatians 2:7 we learn that Peter had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Jews.) Notice his leadership in the healing of the man crippled from birth (Acts 3:1-10), his second sermon at the temple (3:11-26), his bold witness before the Sanhedrin (4:1-22), his public exposure of the sin of Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-11), his extraordinary miracles (5:15), and his second bold witness before the Sanhedrin (5:27-32).

**Lesson Helps:**

Possible aim: My students will learn about Peter’s persistent witness about Christ to the Jews in Jerusalem, so that they will rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to witness persistently about Christ to their own friends.

Notice the persistent witness of Peter and the other apostles in Jerusalem:

- Peter’s sermon to the crowd on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-41, a review of last week)
- Peter’s second sermon to the crowd after the miraculous healing of the man crippled from birth (3:11-26)
- Peter’s first witness before the Sanhedrin (4:8-12). Notice the emphasis on the persistence of his witness in 4:18-20, 33.
- Peter’s second witness before the Sanhedrin (5:27-32). Again, notice the emphasis on the persistence of the witness of Peter and the apostles in 5:17-21, 41-42.

Notice that Peter and the apostles are persistent in their witness despite persecution and opposition including arrest and imprisonment (4:1-4; 5:17-18), trial (4:5-22; 5:27-40), threats (4:18-21; 5:40), and flogging (5:40).

How were Peter and the other apostles able to be so bold and persistent in the face of such opposition? Notice the emphasis on their empowerment by the Holy Spirit: 2:4; 4:8, 31; 5:32. Also, notice the emphasis on their preparation in prayer: 1:14; 3:1; 4:23-31.

Notice that the witness of Peter and the other apostles was consistently about Jesus Christ: 2:22-36; 3:12-26; 4:2, 8-12, 33; 5:29-32, 42.

Application: Perhaps your students do not feel that they can match the persistent boldness of Peter and the other apostles. Point out that Peter and John were “unschooled, ordinary men” who had spent time “with Jesus” (4:13). Also, the preparation in prayer and the filling of the Holy Spirit were not merely for Peter and the other apostles: Notice Acts 2:14; 4:23-31; and 5:32. Ask your students to write down the name of one person (a relative? a friend? a neighbor?) with whom they desire to have an *ongoing* witness. Take some time to pray for persistence in our witness (in small groups? silently?).

**Home Assignment:**

 Read Acts 8:1-25; 9:32-43; 10:1–11:18.

 Memorize Acts 10:43.

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