

**ACTS****Chapter 4 Bible Study****Peter and John before the Council**

<sup>1</sup> While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. <sup>2</sup> These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. <sup>3</sup> They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. <sup>4</sup> But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of believers now totaled about 5,000 men, not counting women and children.

<sup>5</sup> The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. <sup>7</sup> They brought in the two disciples and demanded, “By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?”

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of our people, <sup>9</sup> are we being questioned today because we’ve done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? <sup>10</sup> Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead.

<sup>11</sup> For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup> There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

<sup>13</sup> The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say. <sup>15</sup> So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves.

<sup>16</sup> “What should we do with these men?” they asked each other. “We can’t deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it.<sup>17</sup> But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must warn them not to speak to anyone in Jesus’ name again.” <sup>18</sup> So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? <sup>20</sup> We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.”

<sup>21</sup>The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn't know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God <sup>22</sup>for this miraculous sign—the healing of a man who had been lame for more than forty years.

1. Who confronted Peter and John in Acts chapter 4, and what did they confront them about? (V1,2)

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2. How many people were believers in Jesus at this time? (V4)

3. After arresting Peter and John overnight, the teachers of religious law met, and then decided to bring them in and ask them a question, what was the question? (V7)

- #### 4. How did Peter respond? (V10)

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5. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit as he spoke. What bold statement about

6. The council members were amazed at their boldness. What two qualities stood out to them as they looked at Peter and John? (V13)

7. The religious leaders could not deny that a miracle was done (the healing of the lame man), but they wanted to stop them from telling people about Jesus. So what did they say to Peter and John? (V17,18)

8. How did Peter and John respond to their command, and why did they respond that way? (V19,20)

### The Believers Pray for Courage

<sup>23</sup> As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. <sup>24</sup> When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—

<sup>25</sup> you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, ‘Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the LORD and against his Messiah.’

<sup>27</sup> “In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup> But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. <sup>29</sup> And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. <sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

<sup>31</sup> After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

9. Who was it that came against Jesus, which was something that God had determined would happen (V28) according to “His Will”? (V27) \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What did the disciples of Jesus pray for, as they went up against opposition in their ministry? (V29,30) \_\_\_\_\_

11. What happened after they were done praying? (V31) \_\_\_\_\_

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### The Believers Share Their Possessions

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them <sup>35</sup> and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

<sup>36</sup> For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. <sup>37</sup> He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.

12. How did the united believers feel about what they owned? (V32) \_\_\_\_\_

13. What did those who owned land or houses do with them? (V34,35) \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflection/Application:** What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Prayer Guide:** Based upon the **fourth** part of the Lord’s Prayer (*forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us*), pray to God and ask Him to 1) Forgive you for the wrong things you have done 2) Ask Him to help you forgive people that have hurt you.

**Answer Key**

1. Peter and John were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some Sadducees. They were disturbed that they were teaching people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead.
2. 5,000 men, not counting women and children.
3. By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?
4. The lame man was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead.
5. There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.
6. They were ordinary men with no special training in the scriptures, but they had been with Jesus.
7. They commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.
8. Peter and John refused to stop telling people about Jesus because of all they had seen and heard Him do.
9. Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel.
10. Great boldness, healing power, and miraculous signs and wonders in the name of Jesus.
11. The meeting place shook, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and then preached the word of God with boldness.
12. They felt like what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.
13. They would sell them and bring the money to the Apostles to give to those in need.