

For Starters: Have I ever been in a situation where I felt compelled to speak out?

Witness in Jerusalem (1:15—8:3)

Peter and John at the Temple (3:1-26)

Peter's First Miracle (3:1-11) • Peter's Second Sermon (3:12-26)

3:12-16 To whom and to what does Peter give credit for the miraculous healing?

3:13-14 What is ironic about Peter's accusation of the crowd? (see **Luke 22:34**)

What does Peter say that hints at Jesus' divinity?

3:17-18 How did the people act in ignorance in the crucifixion of Christ?

3:19 What does it mean to "repent"?

3:26 What is implied by Jesus being sent "to you first"?

Peter and John's First Arrest (4:1-31)

The Elders Seize Peter and John (4:1-4) • Peter's Third Sermon (4:5-12)

4:1-2 Why were the **Sadducees** particularly annoyed with Peter's preaching? (see **Luke 20:27**)

4:4 Why is this number of believers significant? (see **Luke 9:13-14**)

4:7 By what power, and by whose name, did Peter perform the miracle?

4:11 Peter refers to **Psalm 118**. How else is this psalm relevant to Christ? (see **Psalm 118:25-26**)

Old Testament Link: The name and identity of Jesus (4:12)

What does Jesus' Hebrew name mean? (see **Matthew 1:20-21**)

Why might the claim of salvation exclusively through Jesus be controversial? (see **Isaiah 43:11-12**)

Read some of the message from God that the prophet Ezekiel received in **Ezekiel 34:15-16, 23-24**.

Who does God say will be the shepherd of Israel?

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice.

Ezekiel 34:15 _____

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Ezekiel 34:23 _____

Did Ezekiel live before, during, or after the reign of David?

Who else is called the shepherd of the flock? (see **John 10:14-16**)

What conclusion could be reached from this information? (see **John 10:30**)

The Council's Judgment (4:13-22)

4:14-16 What is the council's difficulty in dealing with Peter and John? (see **Luke 20:1-8**)

4:16 How does the council's response to Peter's sermon differ from the crowd's? (see **2:37**)

4:17-20 What is the council's decision?

How do Peter and John respond?

4:21 How might the council seek to stop the apostles in the future?

Peter and John Return to the Disciples (4:23-31)

4:25-28 How do the disciples apply **Psalm 2** to Jesus?

4:29-30 What do they pray for, in the face of persecution?

Communal Life among the Disciples (4:32—5:11)

The Generosity of Barnabas (4:32-37) • The Deceit of Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-11)

4:32-35 How do the Christians in Jerusalem conduct themselves?

5:1-3 What is implied by Ananias' and Sapphira's actions and Peter's response?

5:3-4 Why was their sin so serious?

5:4,9 Might there have been a better way for Peter to handle this matter? (see **Matthew 18:15-17**)

5:5,10 Is it clear **how** they died?

Word Study: ekklesia (5:11)

Here is the first time Luke uses the word *ekklesia* (translated as “church”). Matthew used it three times in his Gospel (see **Matthew 16:18** and **Matthew 18:17**).

What does *ekklesia* appear to mean in these contexts?

The English word “church” comes, via German (*kirche*), from the Greek words *kyriake* and *kyriakon*, which mean “of the Lord” or “belonging to the Lord”. How does that describe the Church?

The etymology of *ekklesia* is *ek-* (“out [of]”) + *kalein* (“to call”). If the Church is “the called out”:

Who does the calling?

Who is called?

What are they called out of?

What are they called into?

Here is Peter’s own definition of the Church, from **1 Peter 2:9**: “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of **him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**”

Application: What have I experienced after repenting from sin and turning back to the Lord?

Application: How can I be an example of Christian generosity?