#### Lesson 04:

#### Disciples in Jail; Disciples Share

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Acts 4

MEMORY WORK:

Mark 16:15

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I show that I love Jesus by the way I talk and act

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Review last week’s lesson. What did Peter and John do for the man who couldn’t walk?

Have you ever been afraid to tell someone something because it might make him angry or upset? Today, we will learn how Peter and John told others about Jesus even though they knew people would get mad at them. Let’s see what happened.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. In chapter 3 a crippled man was miraculously healed after Peter spoke to him and raised him to his feet. He was able to walk for the first time in his life. Many people, who had known him as a crippled beggar outside the Temple gate could see him walking around and were amazed. They could see the result of the miracle. A crowd gathered around Peter and John, and Peter used that opportunity to talk to them about Jesus. Because of Peter and John’s teaching, many more people believed in Jesus. They **repented** (3:19) and were baptized into Christ as the apostles taught in Acts 2. “The number of the men came to be about 5,000” (vs. 4; the number did not include women). [Remind the children that on the day the Church began, i.e., Pentecost, about 3,000 people were baptized. So within a few months the Church in Jerusalem had more than 8,000 members!]

**NOTE:** Concerning the 5,000 believers on this occasion, respected brotherhood scholar, J.W. McGarvey said: “Whether this number includes the three thousand who were added on Pentecost or not, has been a matter of some dispute, but it is generally agreed by critics that it does. If those who believed on the present occasion were alone intended, the writer would have said the number *en*, *was*, instead of *egenethe*, *became*, about five thousand.”

*A Commentary on Acts of Apostles*, with a Revised Version of the Text (1872).

1. The Jewish leaders did not want Jesus’ followers to continue telling people about Jesus. They killed Jesus in the first place out of envy over His popularity (Matthew 27:18), and they hoped to squash the people’s belief in Him (Matthew 27:64), and they wanted His followers to go away. [One group, the Sadducees, did not want anyone to say that Jesus (or anyone else) had been resurrected, because they did not believe there was life after death, which would make resurrection from the dead impossible.] Toward the end of the day, the Jewish leaders came to the Temple courtyard where Peter and John were teaching the crowd and arrested the two apostles.
2. Peter and John spent the night in jail. The next morning, the Jewish leaders brought them to a meeting and demanded to know how they were able to heal the crippled man. The man who had been healed the day before was also at the meeting. Since many people had seen him walking around, there was no way for the Jewish leaders to deny a great miracle had occurred. The Jewish leaders wante-d to know who gave them the **power** or **authority** (“By what name”—4:7) to do such a thing?

**NOTE:** “The name” is repeated several times in this chapter (verses 7, 10, 12, 17, 30), and it refers to authority (vs. 7). To explain authority, tell the children to think about taking a note from a parent to a teacher. The message is **from** the parent, but the child is delivering it **for** him/her (in his/her place, with her permission, by his/her authority). Another way to describe this concept is to explain that we must have a license to drive a car. The state allows us to drive a car, but we have to have permission from the state. If we get stopped for any reason, we must have that license to show that we have the state’s permission to drive; we can drive in the name of (with the permission or authority of) the state.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the booklet [***Surrendering to His***](http://apologeticspress.org/user_file/PDF_Books/Surrendering%20to%20Lordship_w.pdf)[***Lordship***](http://apologeticspress.org/user_file/PDF_Books/Surrendering%20to%20Lordship_w.pdf)by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study about the biblical principle of authority and Acts 4:7.

1. Peter boldly told the Jewish leaders that **God** gave them the power and authority (the ability and the right) to help the man walk. They were speaking in the name of Jesus Christ, and it was **God’s** power working through them—the same power that had raised His Son Jesus from the dead. Peter told them, as he had told the crowd the day before, that they could not be saved from their sins without obeying the words of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.
2. The Jewish leaders were astonished that Peter and John were so bold and unafraid. The Jewish leaders didn’t know what to do with Peter and John. So they ordered them again not to preach any more about Jesus. But the two apostles said that **no one** could make them stop teaching and preaching about their Lord (see the memory verse). The Jewish leaders let Peter and John go because they didn’t know what else to do with them. The two apostles went immediately to where other Christians were gathered and told them everything that had happened. All the Christians rejoiced and became even bolder in their teaching and preaching.

**NOTE:** The phrase “filled with the Holy Spirit” (verses 8 and 31) means to be led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit directed the apostles in what they should do and say, giving them abilities to do things that would glorify God (John 15:25-27; 16:5-15).

1. Others could tell by Peter and John’s words and actions that they were followers of Jesus. Can others tell that I am a believer/a follower of Jesus by my actions and words?

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File is labeled “04.” Slides 1- 14 go with Sunday’s lesson. Continue at slide 15 for Wednesday’s lesson.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“Peter and John”**

Author: Bannie Burt (Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”)

Peter and John, Peter and John, Where are you? Where are you?

“We are in prison, because we were preaching.

Here we are! Here we are!”

Where are you now? Where are you now? “Out of jail! Out of jail!

We were set free! We were set free!

Praise God in prayer; praise God in prayer!”

We’ll keep preaching. We’ll keep preaching, Everywhere! Everywhere!

We will go on preaching. We will go on preaching.

Everywhere! Everywhere!

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### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* D is for Determined Disciples Page – Save for NT Binders.
* Discuss what it means to be bold. Practice saying the memory verse with boldness. Do as a group, then individually. Discuss how things might seem scary when we do it by ourselves, but God is always with us. We should be brave if we know we are speaking the truth about God.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. Begin the second part of chapter 4: **Disciples Share.** Many thousands of people were baptized during and after the Feast of Pentecost, and they stayed a long time in Jerusalem. Every day they spent time learning more and more about how they should live as Christians. They prayed together, studied together, ate together, and worshipped God together. But since so many of the new believers were not from Jerusalem and had not brought enough food and supplies to stay for such a long time

in Jerusalem (since they had not expected to hear the Gospel and become Christians while in Jerusalem at Pentecost), many of the new Christians needed help to be able to survive. So their fellow Christians shared what they had with one another, taking care of each other’s needs.

1. Many Christians who lived in Jerusalem and nearby areas sold their property and gave the profits to the apostles to be used to help anyone in need. These generous Christians were not ordered or required by anyone to share what they had; they did it out of love for the Lord and love for their fellow Christians.
2. A Christian named Joses, from the island of Cyprus, sold some property that he owned, brought the money to the apostles, and gave the money to the apostles. This was the first of many times that this special man would help others. He became known as Barnabas, which means “Son of Encouragement.”
3. We still have opportunities to share what we have with others and to help others in need. Discuss with the children different ways they can share what they have with others (sharing toys; giving contribution; etc.). This would be a good time to discuss that everything we have belongs to God, and He expects us to share with others in need.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Parts of the Body Puzzle - Give each student a different body part and let them assemble the puzzle. Discuss how the church is like a body. Everyone is needed and has a job.
* Needy People Visuals – Under the classroom cabinet are large visuals of needy people. It should be in a large ziplock storage bag. There are also small pieces (bandage, drink, etc) to help the people. Put the small pieces on the table or stick them on the board with magnets. One at a time show a person, see if the student can figure out what each person needs and how to help them. Discuss how the early Christians had “all things in common.” First, they had to know what everyone needed then they willingly shared with each other.
  + Answer Guide for Needy People:
    - Boy with hurt knee – band aid
    - Sweaty man – drink
    - Sad boy – friend (a child can sit by him or take the “lazy boy” and put by him
    - Lady with hurt back – put in a seat or lay her down
    - Girl holding stomach – hamburger
    - Boy with no money – give money

### Review Questions

1. Because of the teachings of the apostles, how many people repented and were baptized into Christ by the time of the events recorded in Acts 4?
   1. 5,000 men
2. How did the Jewish leaders feel about Jesus’ followers continuing to tell people about Jesus?
   1. They were angry. They wanted Jesus’ followers to go away.
3. What is the name of the group of people that did not want anyone to say that Jesus had been resurrected? Why did that teaching bother them?
   1. The Sadducees; They taught that the resurrection from the dead was impossible.
4. What did the Jewish leaders do to Peter and John?
   1. Had them arrested
5. After Peter and John spent the night in jail, where did the Jewish leaders bring them?
   1. To a meeting, demanding to know how they were able to heal the crippled man, and who had given them the authority and power to do such a thing
6. Who else was in the meeting with the Jewish leaders, Peter, and John?
   1. The crippled man that they had healed
7. What did Peter tell the Jewish leaders?
   1. That God had given them power and authority to help the man walk, and that it was the same power that had raised Jesus from the dead
8. What did the Jewish leaders order Peter and John not to do?
   1. Preach about Jesus
9. How did the apostles respond to the Jewish leaders’ order?
   1. They said that they would not stop teaching and preaching about Jesus.
10. What did the Jewish leaders do to Peter and John after questioning them about the crippled man?
    1. They let them go because they did not know what else they could do to them due to the response of the people in Jerusalem to what had happened.

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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