

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

February 9, 2020

"Acts" 3:1-8; 13-23

GROWTH GROUPS BEGIN THIS WEEK.

For more information or to join a Growth Group, please visit our Growth Group page online at cbclife.org/groups or call the church office at 408.288.4115.

Quick Review

Reminder: Don't feel the need to get to every question. Use this resource as a guide but feel free to ask questions that may be related to the topic but have some special applicability to your group.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

This section is intended to do a few things. First we want to get people talking. There are many acceptable answers to these questions. Some people may remember a verse, others an illustration. By rehashing various aspects of the sermon your group will be able to remind each other what was taught and this serves to anchor the rest of your time near the text or topic that was discussed.

2. What was one thing that stuck out to you from Sunday's message?

My Story

This section is also intended to engender participation. Providing a space for your group to reflect autobiographically will encourage people to share. Feel free to adapt these questions or ask your own.

1. Have you ever heard of or witnessed anything miraculous? How did that impact your faith?
2. Have you ever met anyone (or have you yourself) had difficulty accepting the "signs and wonders" in the Bible?

Digging Deeper

Reread Acts chapter 3:1-23

1. What is striking about the healing of the crippled man? What does it tell us about how God works in our lives?

There is no one answer to this question. Some responses could include; God meets a man with little or no faith and works through believers to heal him and bring him to faith. This

should embolden believers to minister to people who are not faithful Christians. Another aspect of this healing is that it points forward to the ultimate restoration of all things. We learned Sunday that this sign points back to Isaiah 35:5,6 which states:

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

This should give us unparalleled hope! One day all suffering will end and every bad thing will come undone (Rev. 21, 22). This truth should help us to be fruitful in ministry and have deep joy despite our circumstances.

2. What essential facts does Peter tell them about Jesus? What three kinds of evidence does he give for these facts (apart from his citation of Scripture)?

You may want to hit pause and encourage everyone to reread the passage and see if they can dig these truths out. Here's the cheat sheet:

- Essential facts: Jesus was killed by those He was working to save (vv. 13-15), the Apostles were witnesses of the Resurrection (vv. 15), the man was healed by Jesus "name and faith" (vv. 16), Jesus was the one "foretold" through the prophets (vv. 17), He suffered (vv. 18), He will restore everything (vv. 21)
- Evidence: The lame man healed, the Resurrection, the eye witnesses of the Resurrection.

3. How does Peter prove from the Bible that Jesus is the Messiah?

Peter's argument is fairly straightforward. He points to Moses who said that God would "raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people". Moses was a Hebrew person who also came from humble beginnings. He goes on to quote Genesis 22 saying "Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed". Peter also frames the other side of the argument saying that "Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people."

A paraphrase of this might go something like: Jesus is the one Moses promised, He will make salvation available to all. He is the only way to God. If you do not listen you will be lost."

- Where did Peter learn all this?

Have your group read Luke 24:13-49 together. Pay special attention to Luke 24:44,45. Apparently, Jesus opened their minds and showed the Apostles all that had been written about him in the Hebrew Scriptures (vv. 27, 45)

4. What is the importance of seeing the centrality of Christ in the Old Testament?

There are a myriad of ways to answer this. Let your group wrestle with this question. Here are a few ways that people might respond.

- If the whole Bible is about Jesus it means that God has been actively working towards salvation since the beginning. Another way of saying this is that Jesus is not an afterthought. The significance is that God has been after our hearts for thousands of years.
 - The stories and teachings in the Old Testament now take a new and salvific significance. The Lamb that was slain in Egypt points to Jesus, The Arc that would save a remnant from destruction points to Jesus, David, who faced an enemy no one dared to face and won victory, saving everyone in Israel points to Jesus, and so on...
5. How does Peter tell his listeners they must do to receive Christ? Compare it with what he told his listeners in Acts 2.

Act 2:38-40 “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

- What does he say will be the results of receiving Christ?

Acts 2: sins are forgiven, receive the Holy Spirit, not be destroyed

Acts 3: sins forgiven, refreshed

6. Summarize what can we learn about evangelism and witness from Peter.

This question is fairly open ended but very important. This is where your group will collectively decide what traits or attitudes they can appropriate from Peter's example. One of the most striking things about Peter's witness is His boldness. He lets his audience know that they are guilty of the death of the Son of God! He doesn't flinch when pointing out sin. Granted this has to be done wisely but modern people can often be reluctant to do this as we capitulate to the cultural norms that say "don't you dare judge someone" or that "all morality is subjective". Christians have a unique and important message: all have sinned and need forgiveness.

Peter also uses an accepted cultural truth to make his case. By quoting Moses he is saying something that everyone would have been in agreement upon. He then uses this line of reasoning to point to Jesus. A good follow up question might be "what call an equivalent line of reasoning look like here and now in San Jose in 2020."

Tip: If you missed Sundays sermon you can rewatch the livestream on Facebook. We typically have the video posted to YouTube by Monday. You can access past sermon videos on our webpage at <https://cbclife.org/sermons>

You can also download this weeks Growth Group curriculum on our webpage at <https://cbclife.org/groups>

TAKING IT HOME

1. Pray about joining a Growth Group this semester.
2. Read Isaiah 35 and meditate on what it will be like when; *"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy."*