



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 9



Peter and John Arrested

Acts 4:1-31

Supplemental Scripture

Matthew 10:18-20
Galatians 6:9
2 Thessalonians 3:13
Hebrews 12:3
2 Timothy 3:12
Philippians 4:5-8

Memory Verse

There's nothing else we
can do. We have to speak
about the things we've
seen and heard.
Acts 4:20 (NIRV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus is
the only way to God

Understand that it is our
responsibility to share
Jesus with others

Understand that some
people will not like what
we have to say

Understand that we can
pray for boldness to share

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Have you said something, the right thing, and gotten in trouble anyway? How did you react? Let's see what happens to Peter as he continues to run the race.

Peter and John had been at the temple. They went to pray and healed a lame man in the process. Many people were amazed. They believed and followed the teachings of Jesus. But others came up to Peter and John who were not pleased with what they had been teaching. These men didn't believe that Jesus had risen from the dead and they certainly didn't believe that His resurrection meant that those who follow Him will one day be resurrected to spend forever with Him. These men were leaders at the temple. These men had studied the Scriptures, but they failed to see Jesus in the words that they knew so well.

Because they didn't like what had been said, the temple leaders had Peter and John arrested. They left them in jail overnight. The next day, the rulers and the leaders and the teachers of the law met together. They had Peter and John brought before them. They wanted an explanation for what Peter and John had been teaching and doing, as if they had said or done something wrong.

Peter, who was filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit, said, "Are you asking us to explain our actions today? Do you want to know why we were kind to a disabled man? Are you asking how he was healed? Then listen to this, you and all the people of Israel! You nailed Jesus Christ of Nazareth to the cross. But God raised him from the dead. It is through Jesus' name that this man stands healed in front of you." (Acts 4:9-10 NIRV) Peter explained that these people had rejected the One they had been waiting for, the One God had promised - Jesus. Peter told them, "You can't be saved by believing in anyone else. God has given us no other name under heaven that will save us." (Acts 4:12 NIRV)

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Application

“Anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right will have trouble from others.” (2 Timothy 3:12 CEV) It’s only right to get into trouble when we’ve done something wrong. How would you react to being punished for doing the right thing?

Peter and John responded in a way that showed everyone around them that they had spent time with Jesus. Do you know Jesus? Have you given control of your life to Him? Do you follow Him? There is no other name under heaven that will save you! Will you accept the gift of life that He offers you today?

Don’t you want to react like Peter and John when you are scolded for doing the right thing? Spend time with Jesus today. Read His Word, the Bible, and study it. Talk to Him in prayer. Pray for boldness to say the right thing - all the time.

ordinary men with no special schooling or training, but it was evident that they had been with Jesus! The leaders dismissed Peter, John, and the lame man so that they could talk. “What are we going to do? Everyone around Jerusalem knows they have healed this man. We can’t say it didn’t happen, but we must stop this before it gets out of hand!” So they called the men back in.

The religious leaders spoke to Peter and John. They ordered them not to speak or teach in Jesus’ name ever again. They thought, “That will stop this!” Peter and John didn’t leave quietly. “You tell us what’s right,” they replied. “Should we obey you? Or God? There’s nothing else we can do. We have to speak about the things we’ve seen and heard.” (Acts 4:19-20 NIV) The leaders warned them again but knew there was nothing else they could do.

Peter and John were released. They went back to visit with the other believers and they shared all that had happened since they left for three o’clock prayer the day before. The believers prayed together. They prayed for boldness to share about Jesus no matter what and God answered their prayer!

Review

1. What happened to Peter and John after they healed the lame man? (They were arrested.)
2. Who arrested them? (The religious leaders arrested them.)
3. Why were they arrested? (For speaking about Jesus.)
4. What happened after they were arrested? (They were told not to talk about Jesus anymore.)
5. What was their answer? (We have to speak about the things we have seen and heard.)
6. How did the believers respond when Peter and John were released? (They prayed for boldness to continue sharing about Jesus.)

Next Week
Sharing
Acts 4:32-37

Preschool Lesson

Have you said something, the right thing, and gotten in trouble anyway? How did you react? Let's see what happens to Peter as he continues to run the race.

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The temple leaders arrested Peter and John. They left them in jail overnight. The next day, they had Peter and John brought before them. They wanted an explanation for what Peter and John had been teaching and doing, as if they had said or done something wrong.

Peter, who was filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit, said, "Are you asking us to explain our actions today? Do you want to know why we were kind to a disabled man? Are you asking how he was healed? Then listen to this, you and all the people of Israel! You nailed Jesus Christ of Nazareth to the cross. But God raised him from the dead. It is through Jesus' name that this man stands healed in front of you." (Acts 4:9-10 NIV) Peter told them, "You can't be saved by believing in anyone else. God has given us no other name under heaven that will save us." (Acts 4:12 NIV)

The leaders saw how bold and fearless Peter and John were. They were just ordinary men with no special schooling or training, but the leaders knew that they had been with Jesus! The leaders sent Peter, John, and the lame man away so that they could talk. "What are we going to do? Everyone around Jerusalem knows they have healed this man. We can't say it didn't happen, but we must stop this before it gets out of hand!" So they called the men back in.

The religious leaders spoke to Peter and John. They ordered them not to speak or teach in Jesus' name ever again. They thought, "That will stop this!" Peter and John didn't leave quietly. "You tell us what's right," they replied. "Should we obey you? Or God? There's nothing else we can do. We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard." (Acts 4:19-20 NIV) The leaders warned them again but knew there was nothing else they could do.

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Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Review the memory verse until your students are familiar with it and can say it on their own. Then, play “Gossip.” Instruct your students to sit in a circle. Pick a student to begin and encourage the student to think of something God has done. Have them whisper to the second student, who whispers to the third student, and so on. Give each student a chance to share.

Make invitations. Be creative! Encourage your students to include something from the story, something they have learned about Jesus. Make visits with your students to those who do not come to church.

Look at Galatians 6:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:13, and Hebrews 12:3. Discuss their application for today’s lesson and for our lives.

Play “H-O-R-S-E,” the basketball game but spell out “B-O-L-D-N-E-S-S” instead.

Sing “Be Bold.” Talk about boldness. Look it up in the dictionary. Encourage your students to pray for boldness when sharing Christ with others.

Discuss Philippians 4:5-8. It is much easier to disagree angrily with someone than to be gentle. Talk about practical ways to “Let everyone know how gentle you are” (Philippians 4:5 NIV) while still speaking out boldly for Christ.



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about the things
we've seen and heard.
Acts 4:20

Racing Riddles

Beginning with the "t" at the arrow, write every other letter in the spaces below to find out how Peter and John answered the religious leaders.

tuhtehriefsjnkoltehwinnygaeilcsgejwxepcsalniddpoewoehvaqvkeitlodstpaeraskbam
bhozuytehtedtsheinylnigusnwdeevgessreyeunxaengdfhlejayrnd

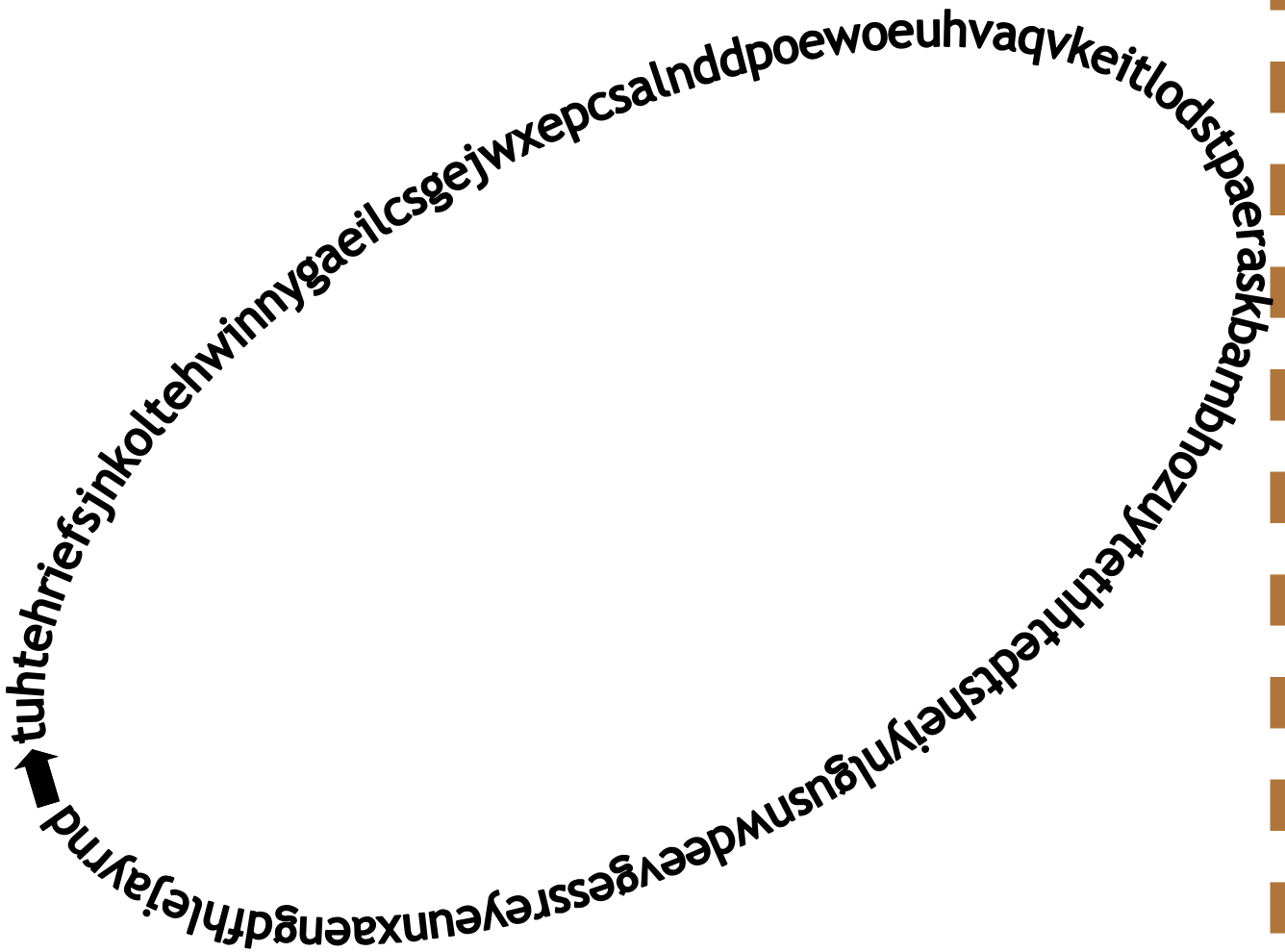
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e r r a g e b s r e d a e l
v e a e e v m e f h l e n d
e t m b o l i p i a s p d n
r e o t b j j o n p e s l e
s p n e e e t e f e r o o s
l e a d y m t h o t s t b s
n o g o g d p o d u e e s s
w o n h o j r l r a t v p i
e f g y d e t s e r r a o r
n i e o o c e t w a r h r t
e b e i l e b r a g g e b e
o e t s u r t r a g j w h n

leaders

beggar

temple

arrested

Peter

John

obey God

we have to speak

boldness

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e t m b o l i p i a s p d n
r e o t b j j o n p e s l e
s p n e e e t e f e r o o s
l e a d y m t h o t s t b s
n o g o g d p o d u e e s s
w o n h o j r l r a t v p i
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