

"Here we go again, "Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...". For the third time in the book of Acts, Peter steps up to speak against accusations against the early church. This time Peter gets down to the heart of the Gospel message and it isn't a theology, a practice, a belief, but a person, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World."

#### INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

At the core of Peter's sermon is a person, not a theology, not the Bible, not a Spiritual Discipline. It is all and only about Jesus. What is the thing you want everyone in the world to know about Jesus? What is it about His character that you love the most?

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

### Acts 4:12

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

## Acts 4:1-12

"And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been

healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. Here, Peter gives his shortest sermon by far. Now that you're an expert on his other two sermons (after last week's LG Curriculum activity) compare and contrast this third sermon with those other ones. How is it different? Why do you think this one is written the way it is?
- 2. Write an outline of Peter's short sermon highlighting just how dense it is though it is just over 100 words in English. Powerful, isn't it?!
- 3. Often commentators say that this is Peter's elevator Gospel presentation because it is short, to the point, and keeps the most important things at the forefront. If you were to give an "elevator Gospel presentation" what would yours sound like? Can you do it in less than 100 words?;)
- 4. Often times "sharing the good news" gets relegated to an imparting of information instead of a sharing, a discussion, a relationship. Sometimes an imparting of information is important and wise, other times relationally engaging with the Gospel by sharing about its impact on your life is more appropriate. Which do you prefer? Which do you struggle with?
- 5. In 2 Timothy 4 Paul says, "I [Paul] charge you [Timothy and all disciples/ leaders] in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching." What does this mean? What does it mean to do this with "complete patience and teaching"?
- 6. What keeps you from sharing the Gospel or Jesus or the Scriptures with people? How can we overcome these things together?

# **CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:**

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.