

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: JUNE 9, 2026

BACKGROUND:

Just as Jesus promised, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit at the Pentacost. They attracted a crowd as filled with the Spirit, they were speaking in other people's language. At this time, Peter lifted his voice and told them how Jesus fulfilled prophecy from Joel. This Jesus whom they witnessed do mighty works. This Jesus whom they rejected and had crucified. This Jesus who was raised from the dead, and now sits at the right hand of God the Father.

This cut the people's heart, and they asked Peter what they need to do. Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and they will receive the Holy Spirit. Three thousand obeyed Peter, and they were saved. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing all that they had, and the Lord added to their number day by day.

As they were in the habit of doing, Peter and John were going to the temple at the hour of prayer, when a lame man asked them for alms. Peter then told the man, "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" Immediately the lame man leaped up and started praising God. All the people who saw this miracle were filled with wonder at what happened to him, and a crowd began to form as the man was praising God.

Then Peter tells the crowd the good news of Jesus Christ and to repent so their sins will be blotted out and they will be saved. The religious leaders came and arrested Peter and John.

LESSON:

Please read Acts 4:1 – 22 and be ready to discuss the following questions.

Acts 4:1 – 22

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.”

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, ¹⁶ saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” ¹⁸ So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” ²¹ And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. ²² For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

QUESTIONS:

1. In 4:1 – 4, the company of priests, captain, and Sadducees suddenly came upon Peter and John and arrested them.

Q1: Why did religious leaders arrest Peter and John and do you think the leader’s actions were reasonable?

2. In 4:5 – 7, Peter and John were brought before the rulers, elders, scribes, Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander. These guys were the ruling elite of the Jews. There was no person on earth who had higher authority than these guys. Most people would be intimidated by this crowd.

Note: John 18:13 reveals more about Annas and Caiaphas. When Jesus was arrested, he was led to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas.

Q2: When they inquired of Peter and John, “By what power or by what name did you do this...” how did God help Peter?

3. The concept of believers being filled with the Holy Spirit is something to pause and consider. In Acts 2:4, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, yet here it appears that Peter is filled by the Spirit again. Can we be filled by the Holy Spirit again and again?

The commentaries I used, noted that the Greek word for “filled” here, is not a one and done... it’s an ongoing action. In other words you can be filled with the Holy Spirit again and again. In the Old Testament, we see various people being filled by the Spirit. In Ephesians 5:18 – 21, Paul writes to help us understand the concept of “being filled” by the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 – 21

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Paul is addressing believers in Ephesus who have already been filled with the Spirit. He tells them not to get drunk with wine because the wine will affect your behavior... which he calls debauchery. However, just as wine can affect you, he says instead to be filled with the Spirit so you will give in the Spirit and do things which are pleasing to God. And this filling is ongoing. As Christ followers we should submit to God’s will and then empowered by the Spirit to do God’s work.

Q3: Share a time when you submitted to God’s will and God equipped you by filling you with the Holy Spirit so you could do God’s work.

4. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit really launches into the council. The council was astonished when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, knowing they were uneducated, common men.

Q4: What did they realize as Peter was talking?

Q5. What did the council of Jewish leaders decide to do with Peter and John and what was Peter and John’s response?