

ACTS CHAPTERS 3:1-4:31

Salvation is found in Christ Alone



3

March 13, 2005
2.ACT03

Lesson Goal

Students will understand that salvation is found in no one else except Christ.

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Tell the teacher why Peter and John were going to the Temple.
- Explain what happened at the temple.
- Explain the main point of Peter's Sermon.
- Explain how the Christians responded when they were persecuted.

Memory Verse

Acts 4:12 ~ "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Application

- Respond to Peter's sermon. Search your heart to see if you have truly placed your faith in Christ.
- Seek to obey God rather than man.
- Pray that God would give you the boldness to tell others about Jesus.

TEACHER PLANNING SHEET

Prepare Your Heart

- Read and study through the passage meditatively.
- Prayerfully seek how God would have you personally apply this passage to your own life. Write these down.

Prepare the Lesson

- Choose from the various ideas in the lesson plan.
- Write down an approximate time frame for each.
- List the materials needed.

HOOK

Time

BOOK

Time

LOOK

Time

TOOK

Time

Materials
Needed:



ACTS CHAPTER 3:1-4:31

Salvation is found in Christ Alone

3

1st–3rd Grade
March 13, 2005
2.ACT03EL

MEMORY VERSE



“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12



SHOOK

Broken Limbs (Discussion). Ask the students if they have ever broken an arm, leg, or hand, etc. Let them tell their story. Ask them what happened when the cast was removed. Were they able to move that leg or arm as soon as the cast was removed? Tell students that today’s Adventure tells of a lame man who could immediately dance around and praise God!

From Me to You (Riddle/Discussion). Write on the board before class: “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you.” Ask the students as they come in to the class to read the board and see if they know what is it that we as teachers have to give them. **Answer:** *Teachings about Jesus Christ and guidance in their relationship with Him.*

Beggar at the Gate (Role-play). Have a helper or teacher dress in ragged clothes and sit on the floor at the doorway of the classroom holding a basket or metal cup. As the students come in, he will tell them a hard luck story (*about how he can’t walk*) and beg them to give him money (*he may actually receive some coins and a few other creative gifts*). You may want to leave it at this or after students are all seated, add “Peter” and “John” to your cast and re-enact the healing of the beggar as recorded in Acts 3:1-11. Tell the students that in today’s Bible adventure they are going to learn about a man who had been crippled from birth. God does an amazing work and heals him through the hands of the apostles, which leads Peter into a whole sermon on how the people can be saved.

Not a Commercial (Object Lesson/Discussion). Show a box of “BOLD” detergent. Discuss the meaning of the word “bold.” Why would a detergent company name a product “Bold”? Tell the students that in today’s Bible adventure they are going to see how the Peter and John were bold before the Sanhedrin, who were the rulers of Israel during that time.

Walking Aids (Activity/Object Lesson). Allow the students to use pieces of equipment, such as crutches, cane, wheel chair or walker, to try to get around. If there is a student in the class who uses any of these walking aids, ask him or her to talk about how the wheelchair or walking aid helps. Tell the students; “In our Bible Adventure today, we will hear about a man who had no equipment like this in getting around. Every day, someone brought him to the temple and he had to sit there all day, holding out a cup, asking for money. How do you think he felt?”

Be A Witness (*Object and Sound Identification*). “Witnesses tell what they have seen and heard. I am going to give you an opportunity to be witnesses of something you see.” Place an object in a bag and ask a student to come up, look in the bag, and tell the other students what he sees. Then he or she can pull out the object and show it. Place another object in the bag and select another student to be a witness. Continue until everyone has a turn. This could be repeated with sounds from the sound CD available in the Children’s Workroom, giving the students an opportunity to be witnesses of something they hear, also. There are some witnesses in the Bible Adventure today and they have something special to share with us.

BOOK

Presentation Ideas

Beggar at the Gate (*Role-play*). See HOOK time for this re-enactment of Acts 3:1-11.

Peter and John with Lame Man (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). Acts 3:1-4, **2.ACT03EL.GF1.**

Lame Man Leaping After Being Healed (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). Acts 3:8-11, **2.ACT03EL.GF2.**

Before the Sanhedrin (*Illustration/Coloring Page*). Acts 4:5-14, **2.ACT03EL.GF3.**

Bible Adventure for 1st- 3^d grades

Imagine this. You cannot walk. **You are a 40-year-old man, and you have never been able to walk.** Everywhere you go someone has to carry you. Now imagine that you live in the first century about the year AD 33 or 34. There are no computers, no wheelchairs, no work for a lame person to do except beg. People call you a lame beggar because that is what you are, and that is what you have always been. You’ve tried to make the best of it. Through the years you have earned your way to one of the best begging spots in the city. You have a seat at the gate called Beautiful. It leads into the temple and has probably the best traffic flow. Three times a day you are carried by family and friends to this gate before the prayer hour traffic shows up. Most of the people who go in know you well though they don’t stop and talk to you. They have been tossing coins in your lap for years, but they don’t even know or care that you have a name. To them you are the lame beggar. You have been there so often and for so many years, that even the people from out of town recognize you. Forty was old in those days. People were fortunate who lived that long. Fifty was possible and sixty was rare.

This day is like any other day. It is the last prayer hour, 3:00 p.m., your last chance to beg. Everyone is in a hurry to get in and get the best spots for praying in front of the temple. You have to talk fast and loud, getting their sympathy and then their money. Now these two annoying men are standing in front of you, and they are not reaching for money. You think to yourself, “Get out of the way. If you have no gold or silver, I have no need of you.” You try to look past them, but suddenly one of them commands you to look at them.

"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk," he shouts. Before you know it, he has pulled you to your feet, and for the first time in your long miserable life you can walk. No, you can leap and run and hop and dance.

In Acts chapter three, this actually happened. Peter and John were going into the temple, preparing to preach to the crowds gathered there. Just like Jesus, they used a miracle to get people's attention. On that day, a lame man who had never walked, danced. Immediately a crowd forgot about the prayer time and ran to see what had happened. They all knew the lame man, and when they had seen him that afternoon, he could not walk at all. His legs, though hidden under his robe, were too weak and disfigured to ever stand. None could deny a miracle had taken place. **The man was instantly, completely healed.**

Peter had their attention, but he wanted them to give attention to Jesus. "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we have made him walk?" (3:12). It was faith in Jesus that had produced this miracle, and they all knew that they had given Jesus up to be crucified. They knew that God alone had the power to perform such a miracle, but they had denied that Jesus is God. How, then, were Jesus' followers able to do such a fantastic thing? Peter was eager to explain it to them.

Using several names for Jesus that the crowd would recognize as belonging to the Messiah, Peter reminded them of events leading up to Jesus' death. The Israelites had delivered Him, God's servant, up to Pilate and disowned Him as their Messiah. They asked for a murderer to be set free instead of Jesus, the Holy and Righteous One. They put to death the Prince of Life, and God raised Him up again, a fact the Apostles had witnessed for themselves. And if that was not enough to convince Peter's listeners, he told them that the healing of this lame man took place because of the faith Peter and John had in the name and person of Jesus.

Peter didn't pull any punches in his accusation of the Jews. They had willfully killed their own Messiah. However, he softened his words by saying to the people, "I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders." Peter was not excusing their actions. He was only saying that if the Jewish leaders had allowed Jesus' message to soften their hearts, they never would have crucified Him (*see 1 Corinthians 2:8*). Yet the proof was there for all to see, that Jesus was who He claimed to be. Peter was telling the crowd that God, in His great mercy, was able to forgive even this sin.

Peter continued on, giving more proof that Jesus was Israel's Messiah. The Old Testament prophets had foretold that God's Messiah would suffer. What Jesus had gone through was a direct fulfillment of those prophecies. The bad news that the people had killed their Messiah would make them realize their sinfulness and want to turn to God. Peter urged them to repent, to turn away from their sin and follow Christ. This was the depth of God's love for His people. Even a sin as horrible as killing the Son of God could be wiped away if a person truly repented of it. In spite of their rejection of Jesus, they were still God's chosen people. Because of God's great love for them, He did not reject them even in this.

While Peter and John were speaking to the crowds, a group of priests and Sadducees approached them. These men didn't like what they were hearing. Peter and John were teaching that Jesus had risen from the dead. The

Sadducees didn't believe in life after death, and here these men were, on temple grounds, spreading these stories. They had the temple guards arrest them. It was nearing evening, so they held Peter and John overnight.

In the morning the Sanhedrin, or council, met to question Peter and John. The same men who tried and condemned Jesus were present at this meeting. They wanted to know by what power, **or in what Name**, the Apostles had healed the lame man. Peter, who was filled with the Holy Spirit and with the boldness that the Spirit gave Him, addressed these men that he had run away from the night Jesus was arrested. He told them the lame man had been healed by the power of Jesus, the One they had crucified. They had rejected Christ, but He was the foundation on which God's Kingdom was going to be built. Jesus was the only way these men were ever going to become part of that Kingdom. *(Read our memory verse for this lesson, Acts 4:12.)*

As the Sadducees and Jewish leaders listened to Peter and John, they were amazed at the things they were hearing. Their hearts had not softened, but they were impressed with the way the Apostles were talking. How could these two simple fishermen be using the Scriptures so skillfully? They remembered that Peter and John had been with Jesus. Now, the man they had healed stood with them before the council, as proof that Peter and John had some kind of supernatural power. They didn't know what to say, so they ordered the Apostles outside while they discussed the matter. The big question they had was, "What are we going to do with these men? Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this Name" (4:16, 17). Did you catch that? They didn't want the disciples to use Jesus' name or talk about Him anymore. They then called Peter and John back in and told them to stop speaking of and teaching about Jesus. They might as well have been trying to stop a volcanic explosion by plugging the core with an ice cube! Listen to the Apostles' answer. "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we can't help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (4:19, 20). Peter and John had seen Jesus return from the dead. They weren't about to keep the news to themselves! They were His witnesses!

The Sadducees and leaders were backed into a corner now. Their threats had failed to scare off these Apostles. They could come up with no crime to charge them with and were worried that the crowds would turn against them if they tried to do anything more, so excited were they about the lame man's healing. After a few more threats they let Peter and John go.

The Apostles went back to the other believers and told them what had happened. Everyone was so excited they began to praise God and pray. They thanked God that He is in control of all things and that God knew long ago that people would reject His message, sometimes violently. Then they prayed an amazing thing. **They asked that God would give them confidence and boldness to continue sharing** about Christ with a world that often did not want to hear. They wanted to proclaim God's truth, in spite of the fact they had been ordered not to do it.

God honored the prayer of these believers almost immediately. **The house they were meeting in shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and boldly spoke the Word of God.**

The Apostles were not alone in their witness of Jesus Christ. They had each other for support, and even more important, God went with them wherever they were. In the early church, God's presence was obvious. Did you know that we have been promised that He is with us as well? You or I will probably never cause a lame man to walk as evidence of Jesus' power, but we have the record that such things happened. The witness of the Apostles is in our Bible, and the witness of God's Spirit is in our lives. We have no excuse for not being bold in talking to others about Jesus. If we love Him, we should be motivated to step out in faith and tell others that He is alive and that He is coming again. Jesus is the only way any of us are going to make it to heaven, and yet we hang back and look for just the right time and occasion to ever even mention His name. While the early Church was being commanded not to speak about Jesus, the Church today has to be commanded to go. Have other things become more important to us than sharing the Good News? Let's be prepared by knowing what the Bible teaches about Jesus and how a person can be saved. Then let's continually pray to God to give us the kind of boldness Peter and John had to share with those around us.

Aim Questions:

- 1. Why were Peter and John going to the Temple, and what happened?** *To share the Gospel. They healed a lame man.*
 - 2. Tell a few things that Peter said in his sermon.**
 - 3. What did the Sadducees do to them?** *Threw them into prison and told them not to preach the message of Jesus Christ again.*
 - 4. What did Peter and John say to the council, and what did they say to the other Christians after their release?** *They told the council that they could not stop telling about what they had seen and heard about Jesus. They told the other Christians all that had been said to them and praised the Lord for the Holy Spirit and what He was doing through them.*
 - 5. Have you ever been bold telling others about Jesus? Why or why not?**
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LOOK

A.C.T.S. 3 - 4:31 (Review Worksheet). Ask the students the following questions (or hand out **2.ACT03EL.GF4** to the students and go over it as a class):

1. Where were Peter and John going?
2. What happened on their way?
3. What were Peter and John preaching?
4. In what city are the Apostles?
5. What happened to Peter and John as a result of their preaching about Jesus' resurrection from the dead?
6. After Peter and John had been on trial for preaching they prayed. What happened after they prayed?
7. Peter and John boldly spoke the Word of God. Where did this boldness come from?

What Happened? (Worksheet). Have the students circle the picture that finishes the sentence correctly, **2.ACT03EL.GF5**.

Acts 4:12 Puzzle (Crossword Puzzle). Tell the students that here are most of the words from our memory verse, Acts 4:12. Starting with the longest word, have them fill in the puzzle so that all the words fit, **2.ACT03EL.GF6**.

Count the Converts (Graph/Worksheet). Have the students follow the growth of the new church. Look at these verses: Acts 1:15, 2:41, 2:47, and 4:4, and chart them on the graph, **2.ACT03EL.GF7**. How many were there at each count? How quickly did all this happen? No wonder Jesus' enemies were worried!

Lame Man's Relay (Game). Acts 3:8b "Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God." Arrange the students in teams for a relay race. Each member will begin in a sitting position. After the returning team member helps him up (*anyone can help first team member*), he will walk to the finish line, keeping one foot in contact with the floor at all times. Then he will yell, "Praise God for _____!" Have the students think of different things for which to praise God. Then he will jump back to the starting line and help the next teammate to his feet.

What's in His Name? (Worksheet). Have the students fill in the correct name, **2.ACT03EL.GF8**.

A BOLD Message (Worksheet). Have the students cut out the balloons on **2.ACT03EL.GF9**. Put them in order and glue onto construction paper to form the memory verse, Acts 4:12.

Aim Questions (Worksheet). Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2.ACT02EL.GF10**.



TOOK _____

Be Bold (Discussion). Ask the students, "Have you ever been bold in telling someone about Jesus? What happened?" Tell them someday we may be persecuted for doing God's will. Discuss how we can face persecution with boldness and confidence.

Saved How? (Discussion). Make a list on the board of all the ways that people mistakenly think they can be saved or get to heaven. (*Maybe to be good, go to church, other religions, or not do anything at all. Many in Peter's audience thought they just had to be Jewish.*) Ask the students "What if you were talking to someone who believed these things?" Note each idea listed and repeat Acts 4:12 as a reply for each one. What do the students believe? Ask them to think seriously and present Jesus clearly as the way of salvation. *Teachers: Be bold and present the Gospel. Tracts are available upon request for them to take home.*

Prayer Time (Prayer). In Acts 4:29, the believers prayed, "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness." Pray for boldness in sharing Christ this week. Pray also for opportunities (*when you look for God's answer to this request, remember that insults and conflict were opportunities for Peter and John*).

Be Filled and Be BOLD (Object Lesson/Activity). Prepare by blowing up a large balloon and writing out the memory verse on the balloon with permanent marker. Then deflate the balloon. Present the deflated balloon to the class. Tell them that this balloon has a message. It may be readable, but it's pretty wimpy. Ask students how this balloon can be more bold in presenting its message. Blow up the balloon so everyone can see what it says. How are we able to be bold in our witness? Acts 4:8 says, "Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them...." Acts 4:31b says, "And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and spoke the Word of God boldly." The balloon must be filled with air to be bold. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to present Christ boldly.

- For younger students: Reinforce this object lesson on boldness and the Gospel message itself by giving each student a balloon. Have the student blow it up, without tying it, and write "JESUS" on it with permanent marker. Let students have fun letting the air out and re-inflating the balloons to make the message appear. This may be somewhat chaotic, but they won't soon forget what they've learned.
- For older students: Same, except have the students write out the memory verse, Acts 4:12.

When It's Okay to Disobey (Discussion). Start off the time by asking the students what happens when they disobey their parents. How about when they disobey the teacher in their class. Read Acts 4:19& 20 and Acts 5:28&29 and ask the students if they know why it was that it was okay for Peter and John to disobey the Jewish elders and not stop preaching the Gospel. *I.e., because it was what Jesus had told them to do.* In this country today we are blessed that we can worship and share the Gospel with relative freedom. In many countries this is not the case. Work together as a group and see what kinds of situations you can imagine where it might be necessary to disobey? How will you know when it's okay? **Teacher note:** *The importance lies in the last question "How will you know when it's okay?" It is important that we refer the students back to the Word of God and help them to see that it is the Bible that is the standard by which all actions and attitudes are measured as right or wrong.*

This is not available at this time for Faith Bible Church curriculum.

A.C.T.S. Action Cards (Workbook). Using the letters A.C.T.S., continue to encourage students to remember the four significant stats about each section we will be studying. The following is from Acts 3:1 - 4:31:

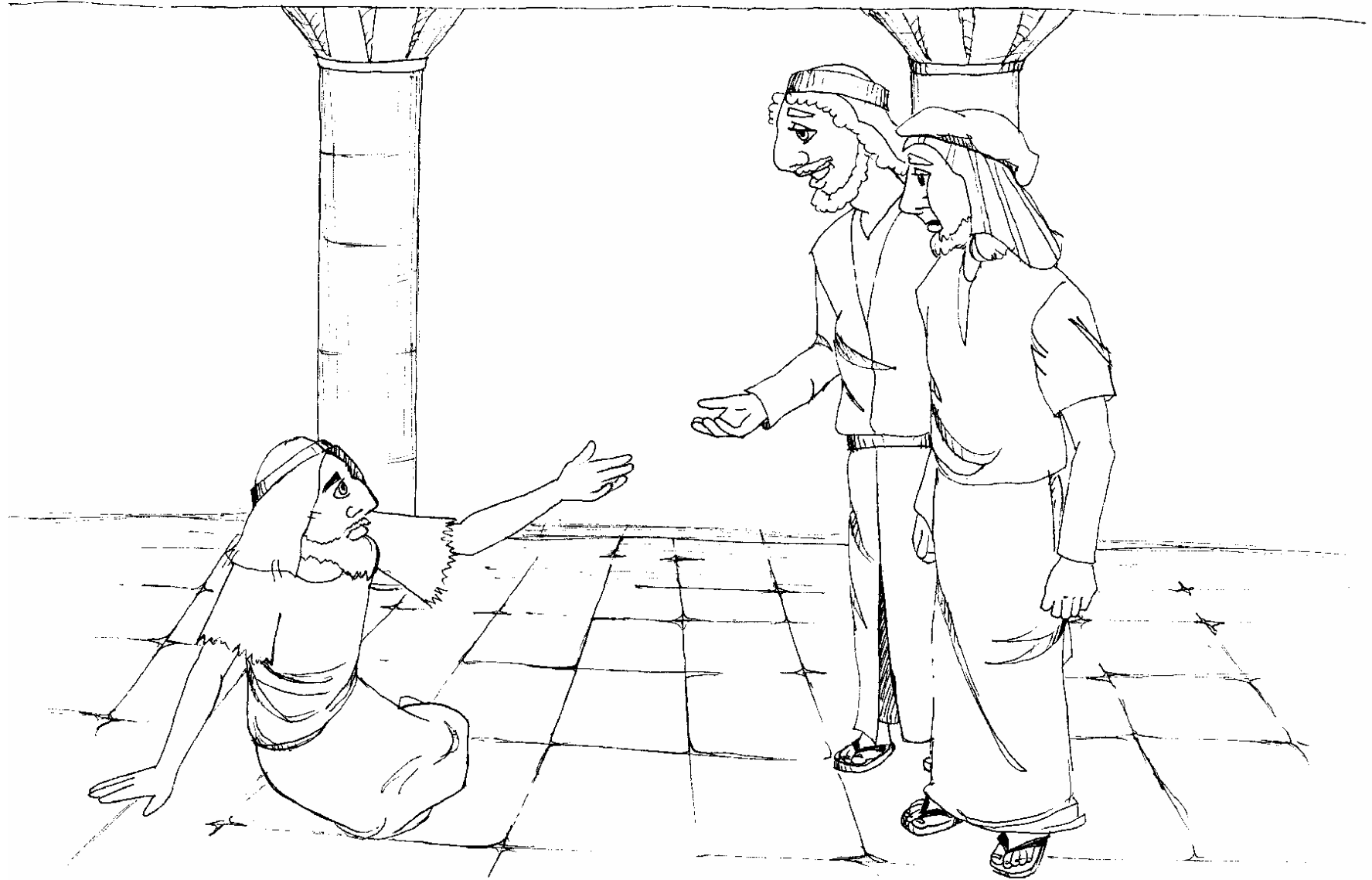
- A. Peter and John.
- C. In the city of Jerusalem.
- T. Jailed by the Sanhedrin.
- S. Gave boldness to speak of Christ.

SUGGESTED SONGS _____

Praising and Leaping (Song). Sing this song based on Acts 3:2-8,
2.ACT03EL.GF11.

Salvation is Found in No One Else (Song).

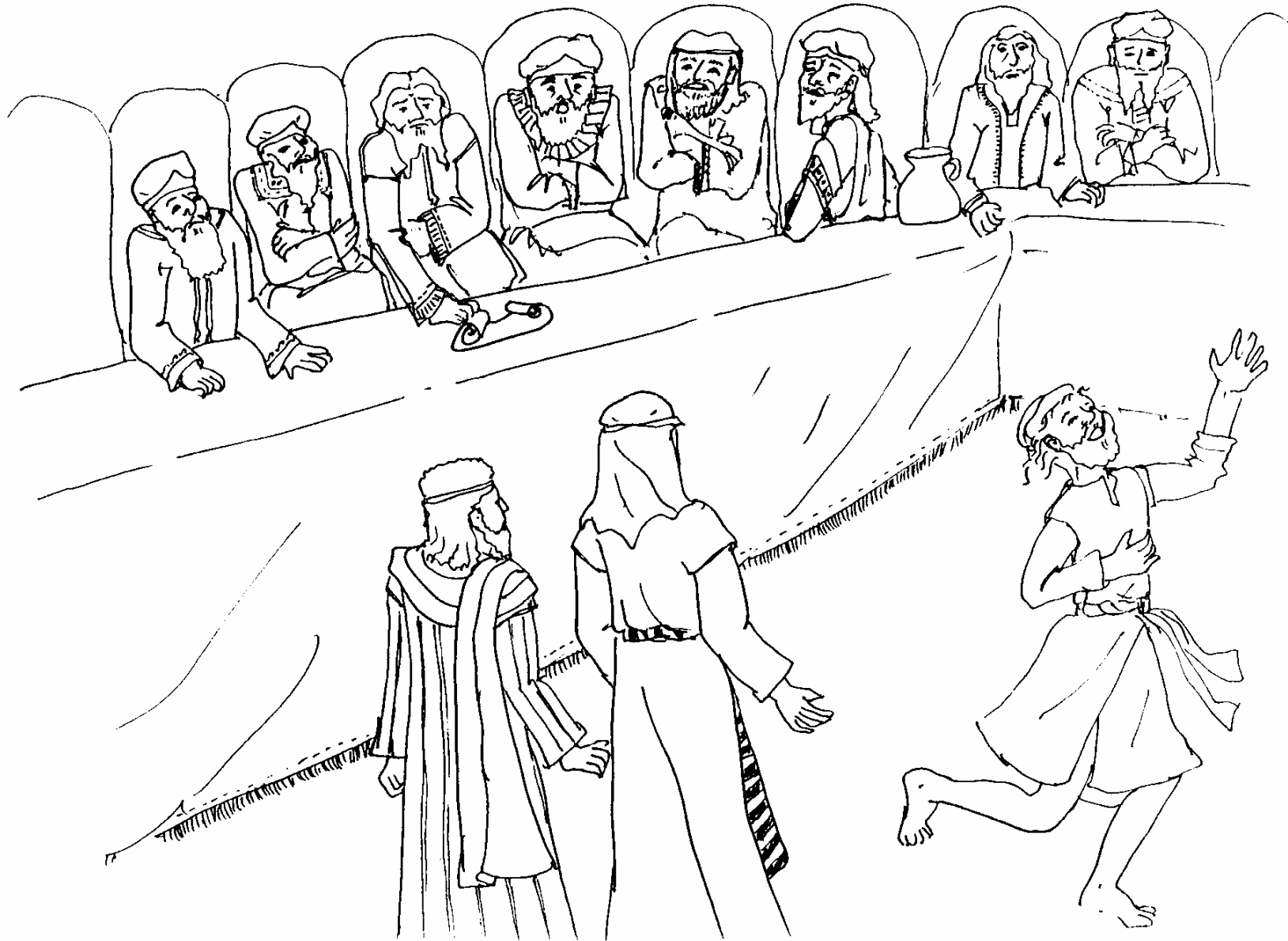
Peter and John with Lame Man



Lame Man Leaping After Being Healed



Before the Sanhedrin



A. C. T. S.

3:1 - 4:31

Apostles – Where were Peter and John going? What happened on their way? What were Peter and John preaching?

City – In what city were the Apostles?

Trials/troubles – What happened to Peter and John as a result of their preaching about Jesus' resurrection from the dead?

Spirit – After Peter and John had been on trial for preaching, they prayed. What happened after they prayed? Peter and John boldly spoke the Word of God. Where did this boldness come from?

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved,” Acts 4:12.

What Happened?

After the beggar was healed, he _____.



did nothing



ran away



went walking
and jumping, and
praising God

Peter was preaching that Jesus had been _____.



crucified and had risen
from the dead

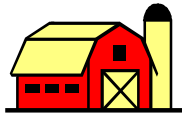


in the hospital

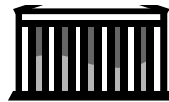


buried in a
pyramid

The Sadducees had Peter and John put in _____.



a barn



jail



an igloo

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was _____.



flooded



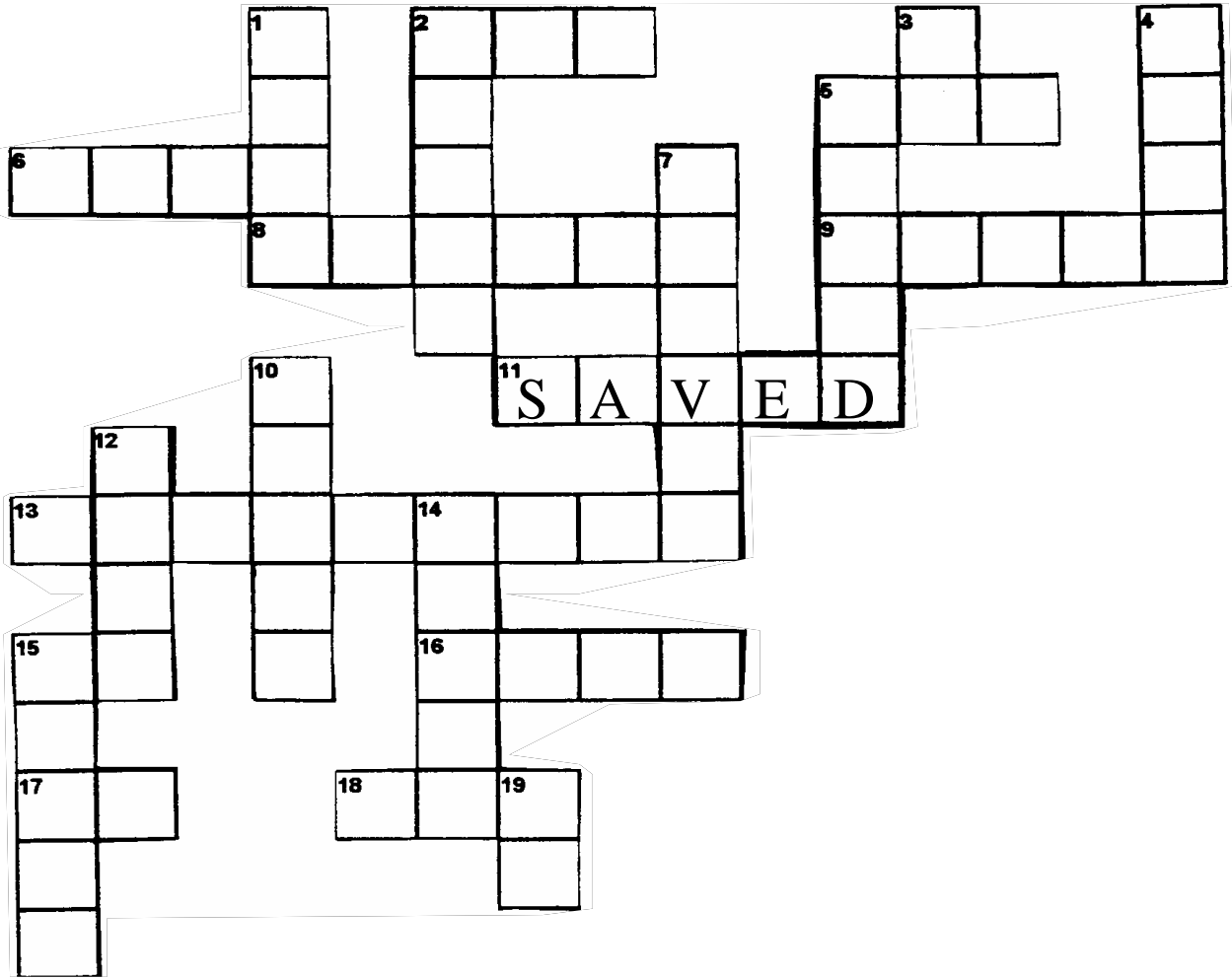
struck by
lightning



shaken

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12.

Acts 4:12 Puzzle



Below are some of the words from our memory verse, Acts 4:12. Starting with the longest words, fill in the puzzle so that all the words fit.

2 LETTERS

NO
IN
TO
WE

3 LETTERS

ONE
FOR
MEN

4 LETTERS

ACTS
ELSE
MUST
NAME
FOUR

5 LETTERS

UNDER
SAVED
THERE
OTHER
FOUND
GIVEN
WHICH

6 LETTERS

TWELVE
HEAVEN

9 LETTERS

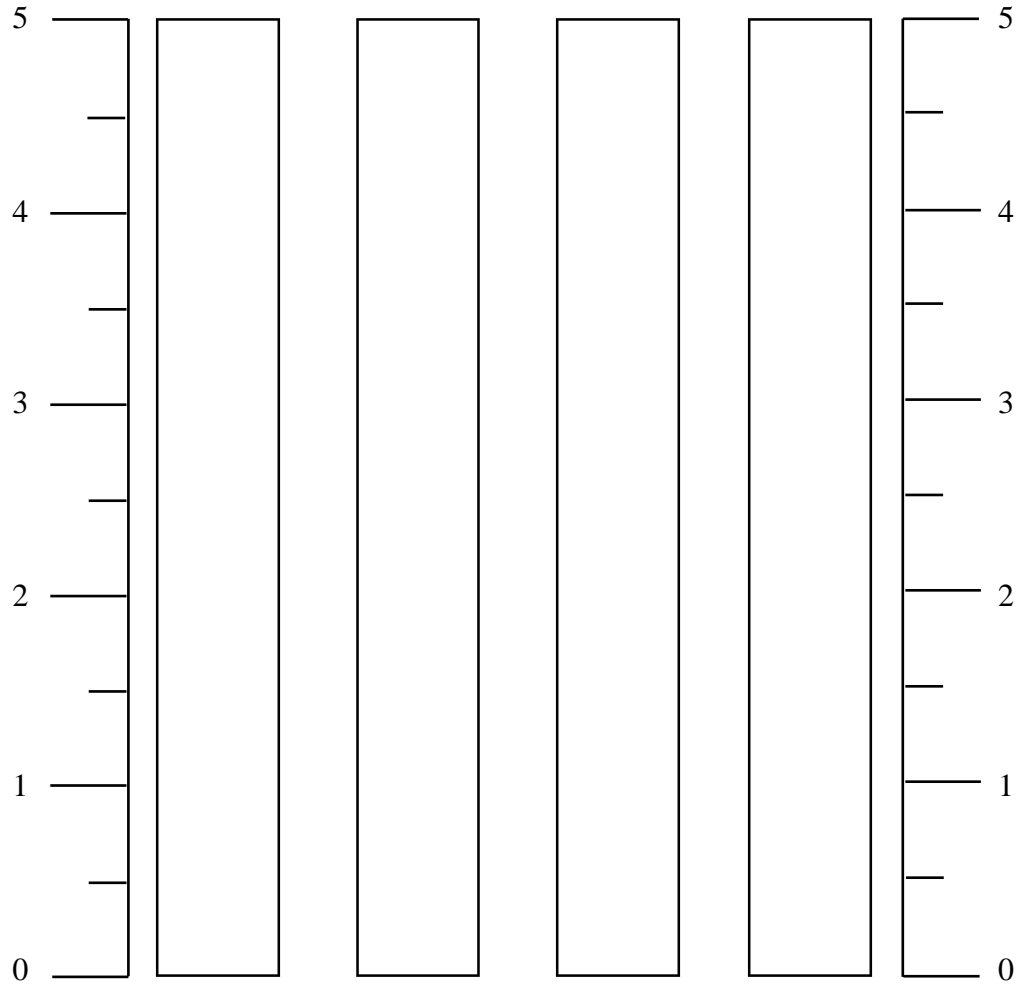
SALVATION

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

Count the Converts

Look up the verses at the bottom of the page, and chart the growth of the new church. Color in the columns up to the number indicated. If a specific number is not given, show an approximate number.

Converts in 1,000's



Acts 1:15

Acts 2:41

Acts 2:47

Acts 4:4

What's in HIS Name?

Fill in the blanks with the correct **name**.



Peter said to the lame man, “In the **name of** _____ **Christ of Nazareth**, walk,” (Acts 3:6).

It was by faith in the **name of** _____ that the man they knew was made strong, (Acts 3:16a).

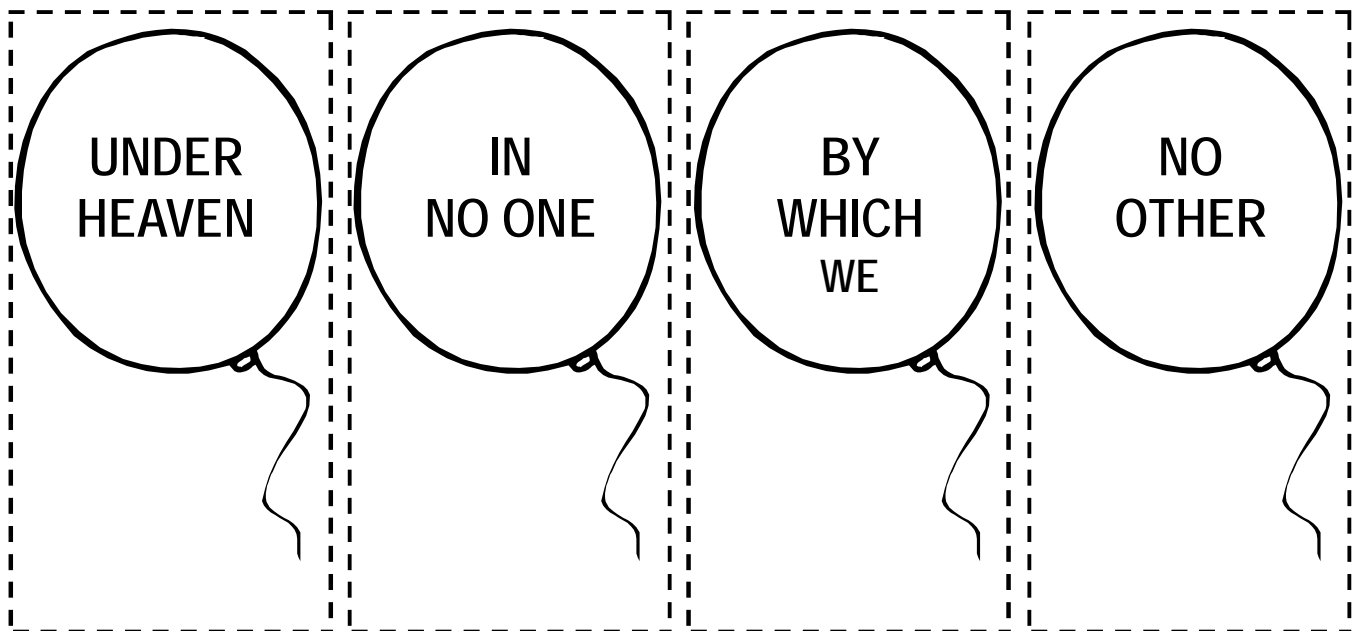
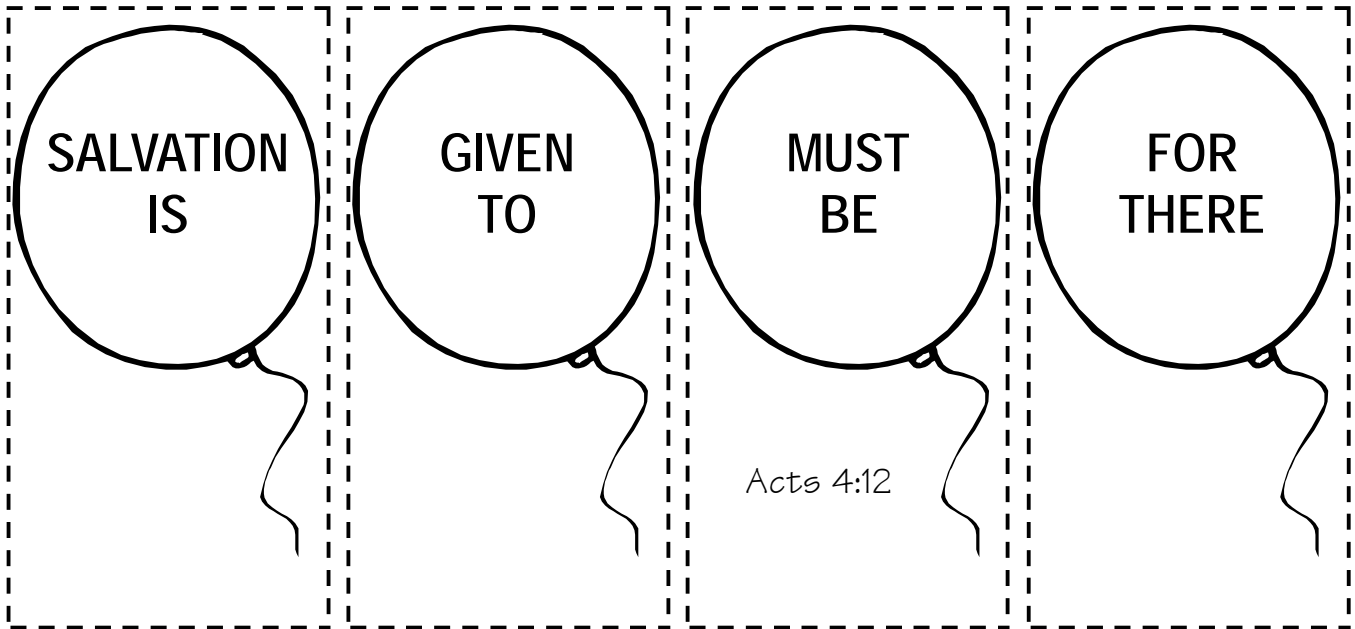
Peter declared, “It is by the **name of** _____ **Christ of Nazareth**, whom you killed but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed,” (Acts 4:10).

“There is no other **name** beside _____ by which we must be saved,” (Acts 4:12).

The council warned Peter and John not to speak or teach at all in the **name of** _____, (Acts 4:17,18).

A BOLD Message

Cut out the balloons. Put them in order, and glue onto construction paper to form the memory verse, Acts 4:12.



Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Why were Peter and John going to the Temple, and what happened?
2. Tell a few things that Peter said in his sermon.
3. What did the Sadducees do to them?
4. What did Peter and John say to the council, and what did they say to the other Christians after their release?
5. Have you ever been bold telling others about Jesus? Why or why not?

If you are a believer, God has given you everything you need to share Him with boldness to an unbelieving world.

Acts
Chapter
3:1-4:31

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

PRAISING AND LEAPING

Peter and John went to pray
They met a lame man on the way
He asked for alms and held out his palms
and this is what Peter did say.

"Silver and gold have I none
But such as I have give I you
In the name of Jesus Christ
of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

He went walking and leaping and praising God,
Walking and leaping and praising God,
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth
Rise up and walk.