

Basic Tips: 1.) Use a translation you can understand. The NIV or The Message are good starters. 2.) Use a kids Bible with kids. 3.) Keep a pencil and notebook around to write down questions, observations, and conclusions. 4.) Have fun. Use your imagination and your brain.

April 26-May 3, 2020

What is the Church?

Day 1	Acts 3:1-10
Day 2	Acts 3:11-26
Day 3	Acts 4:1-21
Day 4	Acts 4:21-37
Day 5	Acts 5:1-11

Questions to Guide You:

While we are not gathering in our building every week, it is the perfect time to reconsider what is the Church? We'll start by reading in the book of Acts.

- 1.) Before reading, consider the following: what did you learn about church last week? How is social distancing changing your understanding and appreciation of the church?
- 2.) What are Peter and John doing? Why? Why is it important for us to remember that these men were Jews and thought of the gospel as Jewish good news and the fulfillment of God's promises to the Jews? What happens when we divorce Jesus from Israel?
- 3.) How would you describe Peter and John's interaction with this man? Do your interactions with beggars look like this? Why? Why does the Bible emphasize eye contact in verse 4? What does this teach us generally about church? How can you "look straight at" people and let them look at you?
- 4.) Why don't Peter and John give money to the man? What do they give him? What does it mean to always give "what I do have"? How can you imitate them? Do you have courage to pray for/with people? Do you believe God heals? When has God healed you physically, emotionally, spiritually?
- 5.) In Acts 2, the disciples went to the temple everyday, but it is only on this day that they heal him. How many times do you think they had passed him? What does this show us about God's healing time and decision?
- 6.) How did people respond to the healing? How should this motivate us to seek healing and recount stories of personal transformation?

- 7.) What does Peter and John preach? How is this like Peter's sermon in Acts 2? Why would Acts record this sermon, when it's so similar to Acts 2, instead of just saying, "Peter told them about Jesus"? How does Peter jump from the healing to the cross and resurrection? How can you transition from an everyday moment to the cross?
- 8.) What is so threatening to the Sadducees and guard? When have you seen Christians villainized for helping people?
- 9.) What is the crux of Peter's comments to them? What does verse 12 mean? This is the 3rd "sermon" in Acts. What have we learned about preaching from these 3?
- 10.) What did the leaders notice about Peter and John in verse 13? These are the people that make church powerful. Do you resonate with them?
- 11.) How did the apostles respond to this confrontation and command? What did the church do together? How can we do this? What do the apostles pray for? Safety or boldness? Which would you rather have? Would you rather be part of a safe church or a bold church?
- 12.) Pray Acts 4:29-30 over Oakland.
- 13.) What do you learn about church from Acts 4:32-37? How does it make you feel?
- 14.) How do you feel reading about Ananias and Sapphira? What was their sin? What does this teach us about the holiness of God and his Church? Why are we so uncomfortable with this kind of holiness that hates sin? Why is lying so despicable? Would you join the church if you heard this story? Why did people?