

R E A D: Acts 3:17-26

Main Idea: Peter continues his sermon pointing out that even though they acted in ignorance, it was still wrong. The solution was for them to repent and turn from their sins. This passage ends with Peter saying that God wants to bless them by turning them from their bad behavior (wickedness).

DISCUSS

Children: Hasn't that been the message from God since the very beginning, to turn away from your bad behavior and sin? Do you know kids that have never been to church or have a Bible to read? Do you think that if they were given the chance to learn who God is they might act different? And if they never had a Bible or someone to take them to church, do you think that God wants less from them or for them? No, God wants everyone to try their best to avoid sin.

Teen: Do the prophesies being fulfilled give validity to the truth of the Bible? Why or why not? Has Jesus helped you turn away or stop bad behaviors? Do you look to God for strength when tempted with sinful actions?

Adult: Peter is talking to Jews. He knows that they know the teachings of the prophets, so he's able to speak differently to them than he might to Gentiles. Have you seen an example where someone tried to tell another something and it fell flat, only to have a second person who 'speaks their language' say basically the same thing and it was accepted? Why is it easier to understand or welcome even a hard message when it's delivered in a way that lets us relate or by someone whose background is like ours?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Psalm 56:9b-11 (ESV)
This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise, in God I trust;
I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?





R E A D: Acts 4:1-4

Main Idea: Peter and John are arrested for preaching about Jesus and the resurrection from the dead. The Sadducees didn't believe in life after death. But even during this hardship of Peter & John being in prison, the church grows to 5000 men.

DISCUSS

Children: Whenever God's Word is being taught there will be some kind of reaction. This time the Sadducees were disturbed. They thought that Peter and John were teaching lies. They put them in jail to stop them. However, too many people had already heard the message and they were telling more and more people and those people repented and were baptized. So, by putting Peter and John in prison, they stopped nothing.

Teen: They crucified the Savior and jailed the preacher, but still the church grows. Can anything stop the Word of God? Peter and John have great courage. They preach God regardless of the punishment. Where does their strength come from? Do we have the courage today to risk all to spread the word of Jesus? Why or why not?

Adult: Do you find it surprising that even in the face of this early opposition, many of the Jews believed in Jesus? What do you think made the difference for them? Does it seem that the receptiveness of people to the gospel has diminished in the years since? Why do you think people of today don't respond to the news of Jesus like they did in the first century?

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