



# Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus

Acts 4:5-14



BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Earthly Power

The Sanhedrin was the ruling body of the Jews. It had authority in all religious matters. One of the Sanhedrin's duties was to deal with cases of blasphemy. Members of the Sanhedrin probably viewed Peter's and John's actions as blasphemy. Peter and John claimed that they were able to heal a man—something only God could do—through the power of Jesus. So they called Peter and John before them.

## Heavenly Power

When asked the source of his power to heal, Peter replied that the power came from Jesus, whom God had raised from the dead. The Sanhedrin had tried to cover up the Resurrection (Matthew 28:11-15), but Peter contended that the healed man standing before them proved that Jesus is alive.

The disabled man was healed through Jesus' power, and Peter's forceful speech before this powerful group of religious leaders was made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8). God was with Peter in a special way, as Jesus had promised he would be when people were going about his work (Matthew 28:20).

## Powerful Truth

Why didn't the Sanhedrin immediately denounce Peter and John? Perhaps the truth, told with such power, dumbfounded them—or even convinced them of what they really had done.

In verse 12, Peter indirectly heaps on more accusation. By saying that salvation is only through Jesus, Peter was saying the leaders' beliefs and actions were insufficient for that purpose. He was saying that if they continued to deny Jesus, no other power was available to save them. If they continued

along this course, they were also leading their nation toward destruction.

What was the Sanhedrin's response? Astonishment! How could these simple men, with no training in the Jewish rabbinical schools, mount such a clear and convincing biblical and theological argument? They may have remembered the similar things they had thought about Jesus (John 7:15). Jesus had supported his claims through the miracles he had performed, and now the disciples had done the same. Everyone had seen the disabled man begging at the Temple, and now he stood before them, healed. What could they say? The Sanhedrin had no answer.

## The Jesus Connection

Two things gave Peter courage in this intimidating situation. First, he was relying on the Holy Spirit, and second, he knew that Jesus is alive. This knowledge gave Peter full and ultimate trust in Jesus.

We have the same Holy Spirit that empowered Peter. What more do we need to be courageous in the situations we face today? Ask God to help you with a particular situation you're facing. You can write your prayer here.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## What I learned today:

**Bible: Acts 4:5-14**

Peter and John healed a crippled man by the Temple gates. They told everyone that it was Jesus' power that had healed the man, not their own. This made the church leaders really mad because they didn't want the people to believe in Jesus. So they put Peter and John in jail and made them stand before the Sanhedrin. But God sent his Holy Spirit to give them courage, and Peter told the Sanhedrin that Jesus had come back to life and that it was by his power that the crippled man had been healed. So the Sanhedrin let Peter and John go.

**Key Verse:** "Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

**Bible Point:** Trusting God makes us brave.



### Family Fun

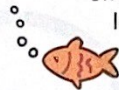
#### Hero Dinner

Make hero submarine sandwiches for dinner one night. Discuss how God helped Peter be a hero. Then have family members tell about times they stood up for Jesus. Discuss how God helped them be brave. Then pray that God would help your family be brave.

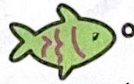
### Daily Challenge

Today kids committed to one of the following Daily Challenges. Help your child weave faith into life this week and follow through

on his or her challenge! (Have kids circle their choice below.)



circle their choice below.)



- Tell your family members one thing that you're afraid of, and then tell them that trusting God makes us brave!

- Write down three things you want to be brave about, and then ask God to help you during those times!

- Be brave and tell a friend about Jesus. With God's help, you can do anything!

Ⓢ Why can we be courageous?

Ⓢ Tell about someone who stood up for Jesus.

Ⓢ How can our family help someone else who may need to be brave right now?

