

CONNECTGROUPGUIDE

ALIVE AGAIN



acn

The Resurrection in Acts



Connect Groups at ACN...

The goals set out in **Vision 26** cast it like this ...

Living to love and proclaim Jesus we will...

- meet in Connect Groups to study the Bible together and equip one another to be faithful disciples
- pray together in our groups. We will make a space for those not used to praying in a group and provide opportunities for people to become more comfortable with group prayer
- have a missional focus, both local and global
- pastorally care for one another especially when people are facing difficult times in their lives
- invite new members to our groups. As groups grow we will encourage multiplication by identifying potential leaders who can be trained to lead new groups
- gather Connect Group leaders together regularly for prayer, training and encouragement



INTRODUCTION

In this Easter Season we regularly use the words -
Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

We have celebrated Easter, moving through the horror of Jesus being arrested, convicted, beaten and crucified.

But the historical event that then took place, is one of the unique identifiers of Christianity, making it stand out in the crowd of belief systems, worldviews and religions.

In this series we take the time to look at some of the Apostles' responses and actions because of the resurrection. We will focus particularly on some of the speeches given which point people to this great truth.

We will see the motivation it gave to the Apostles, and the impact it had on lives.

Let's be encouraged by Peter and Paul as they give testimony to the resurrection, and proclaim Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!



April 24

Choosing of Matthias

Introduction

Have you ever been betrayed? Or perhaps you have betrayed someone else. How did it get dealt with?

Read Acts 1:12-25

1. After the elation of the resurrection and seeing him several times over 50 days, Jesus was now gone.
How do you think the disciples felt as they made this walk?
2. How does Peter view Judas' betrayal of Jesus? vv 15-17
3. The replacement of Judas is not only a stark reminder of Jesus' death, but also a statement that there is a future.
How does replacing Judas work itself out as being God's plan?
(see Psalm 109:8; Psalm 69:25; Luke 24:25-27)



4. What do you understand as the unique role of an Apostle?
Write here your short definition?
5. vv. 21-22 What were the necessary qualifications for an Apostle?
6. What do these criteria show about the Apostles role?
7. The Nicene Creed describes the Church as 'apostolic'. What do you think this means, and why is it important?

PRAYER

Give thanks for the apostles' testimony and ask for help in understanding their witness to Jesus.



May 1

Peter's Pentecost Sermon

Introduction

What are the joys and challenges you find in witnessing?

Read Acts 2:22-41

1. What do you find easier to share with others - the cross of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, or some other aspect of Christ/s ministry?
2. This speech has a strong emphasis on the resurrection - vv.3, 24, 31, 32.
What is Peter's teaching about the resurrection of Christ in these verses?
3. Looking at the wider teaching of the passage what are the implications of the resurrection and ascension for Jesus?



YOUR NOTES

4. What is the implication for the people?
5. What does the resurrection of Christ mean for you personally?
6. Peter explains the events of the resurrection by quoting Psalm 16. Why do you think he does that? What is King David prophesying about?
7. What would be an appropriate response for someone who was coming to believe that the resurrection is true? (Note the response Peter's calls for in vv 38-41.)

PRAYER

*Father, thank you that on the Day of Pentecost the Apostle Peter gave bold witness to the resurrection of Christ.
Thank you that you exalted your servant Jesus to the right hand and gave him all authority.
Lord we turn to Christ and ask you to save us from this corrupt generation.
Grant us the repentance, forgiveness and gift of your Holy Spirit that you promise. For Jesus sake and His glory, Amen.*



YOUR NOTES



May 8

Peter to the Crowd

Introduction

What is your experience of healing/recovering from sicknesses? Have you ever witnessed or experienced miraculous healing?

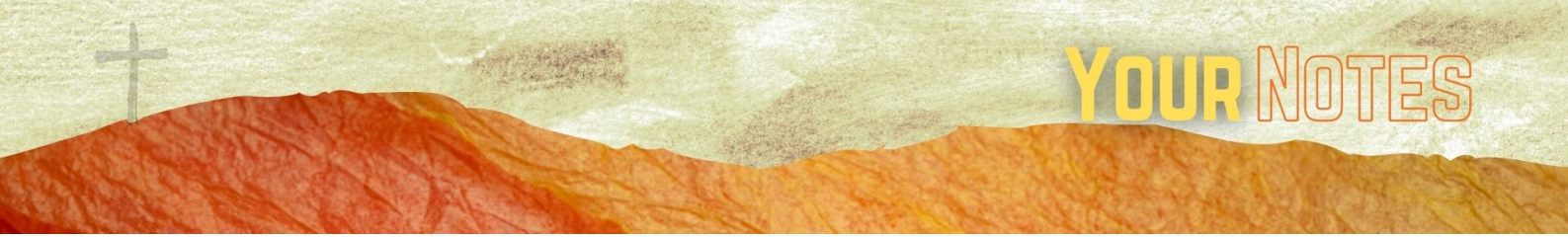
Read Acts 3:11-16

In Acts 3:1-10 a man who was lame from birth was healed. He began a new life jumping and leaping and praising God. That is what Peter addresses in the passage this week.

1. Even though Peter was the one who told the lame man to stand up and walk (v.6), to whom does Peter give credit for the healing?
2. What sins does Peter charge against his fellow Israelites?

Read Acts 3:17-26

3. What are the Israelites to do about their sinful state?



4. What promises does God make to those who respond appropriately?

5. What will God restore?

During Jesus' earthly ministry he brought new life in many ways, forgiving sin, removing the impossible yoke of the law, healing, restoring sight and literally raising the dead. His resurrection is a foretaste of the new life and restoration of all things.

6. Does this restoration apply to non-Israelites? Does it apply to you?

7. When this final restoration occurs what are you looking forward to?

PRAYER

Praise God for all that he has done in Jesus. Respond in confession and express your trust in Jesus, the one who wipes away your sin.



May 15

Peter before the Sanhedrin

Introduction

*Recall a time when you were bold for Christ
or bold for a righteous cause?*

Read Acts 5:17-32

1. In what ways do the Apostles show boldness in this story?
2. What is the Apostolic message?
3. How is this the same/different to previous occasions?
Note 2:23,24; 3:15; 4:10



YOUR NOTES

4. What bold thing could we do that might arouse such interest in the gospel today?
5. What did it mean for the apostles to be witnesses?
6. What is striking about Peter's reply in vv. 29-32
7. What does it mean for us to be witnesses today?

PRAYER

Father thank you for raising Jesus from the dead and exalting him to your right hand as Prince and Saviour. We praise you for your mighty saving act and come before you in repentance, seeking the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, grant us your Holy Spirit that we might be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. For Jesus' sake and his glory. Amen



YOUR NOTES

May 22

Peter and Cornelius

Introduction

Have you ever experienced a spiritual vision or dream? Has God challenged your old way of thinking through a vision, dream or reading the Bible? How much evidence (or weight) do you need before you are willing to change your mind?

Read Acts 10:23b-33

1. Peter's old way of thinking has been challenged: The Israelites were God's people and no one else. How did God teach Peter a new truth? and what was the new truth?
2. Is there anyone, or any people group who you would find difficult to welcome into God's church?

Read Acts 10:34-48

3. What did Peter say they were witnesses of?



4. What does the outpouring of the Spirit mean?

5. Cornelius was obviously a very committed believer in God before meeting with Peter (see 10:2, 10:22, 10:30-31). What did Cornelius gain by believing in Jesus?

6. What do we gain by believing in Jesus?

7. Jesus is now the one appointed by God as judge of everyone - living and dead. But He is also the one through whom forgiveness of sins is offered - to 'everyone who believes in him'. How do you feel knowing Jesus as both Judge and Saviour?

PRAYER

Give thanks to God for the impact the Gospel has on lives and pray for people you know who are yet to respond to Jesus and all that has been accomplished through him.



May 29

Paul in Pisidian Antioch

Introduction

What are the old stories that keep getting told in your family? Why is it important to keep telling them?

Read Acts 13:14-43

1. What are the key points of Israel's history that Paul points out?
2. Why do you think he stops with David? v.22
3. After moving on to John the Baptist and Jesus, what are the key points Paul picks up about the life of Jesus and his rejection?
vv.23-31



YOUR NOTES

4. What conclusions does Paul come to from all this history?
vv.32-37
5. What are the two things Paul says we can now have through Jesus? vv.38-39
6. What attitudes to the message of the gospel do you see around you today? How might we address them?
7. In vv.41-42 Paul gives his hearers a warning about unbelief. Why might he have thought that to be necessary? What are the dangers of unbelief that we might need to guard against?

PRAYER

Praise God for his sovereignty, his promises, and that Jesus will rule forever.

Spend time thanking God for his wonderful grace.



