

The Book of Acts

This Week:

Lesson: Persecution, Separation, and Unity

Scripture: Acts 4

Next Week:

Homework Scripture Read: Acts 5

Lesson Text:

Acts 4:1-4	Arrest of Peter and John
Acts 4:5-22	Before the Sanhedrin v. 5-7 Question v. 8-12 Answer (Psalm 118:22) v. 13-18 Court order v. 19-22 Conclusion
Acts 4:23-31	Unity in worship, praise, prayer, preaching
Acts 4:31-37	Unity of community needs

Discussion:

- Discuss the religious and political environment at the temple
- Discuss Peter's role in the birth of Church
 - Matthew 16:13-20
 - De facto leader of disciples during Christ's ministry
 - John 15 restoration passage is a specific commission
 - Seems to lead after crucifixion, especially at Pentecost
 - First two recorded sermons
 - First to stand before the Sanhedrin, with precedent setting results
 - First to evangelize the Gentiles and to argue their acceptance into the Church
- Discuss the presidential aspects of Church authority demonstrated by Peter and John
 - Christian civil disobedience – Individual conviction vs. human authority
 - Against the Mosaic priesthood – separation between religions, or religious dispensations
 - imperfect separation – location Acts 5:12
 - imperfect separation – identification Acts 10-11:18
 - Against the nation of Israel – separation between church and state