

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

STUDY FOUR

REVOLUTION



FOUR STUDIES FOR SMALL GROUPS

LIVING AS CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS

COMMUNICATING TRUE HOPE IN A BROKEN WORLD

REFLECT

INTRO

We closed last week's study, praying for commitment, courage and clarity as we share our faith. What encouragements have you had? What difficulties have you experienced? What valuable truth-testing questions have you heard?

- Pray that through this last study in our series, God would equip us further to be Christ's Ambassadors...

REVOLUTION

We pray for life-change: not a person altering the rules by which they live but changing their allegiance to Jesus. This is the ultimate revolution.

Here Peter addresses a crowd staring at a man healed in the Name of the Jesus they crucified.

ACTS 3:17-19, 4:8-13 - PETER CALLS FOR REVOLUTION

CHAPTER 3:17 “Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...

Peter and John are arrested when the authorities hear them speaking of Jesus and resurrection. After a night in jail, the court challenges them and Peter answers...

CHAPTER 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’ 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

BIBLE

- In 3:19, what does he call the crowd to do?
 - How would you phrase this to your friends?
- What does he say will result from such a response?
 - What strikes you about Peter's words?
- Challenged to explain in whose name he acts, Peter answers in 4:8. Who empowers him?
 - Does this encourage you in any way?
- In 4:9 Peter - perhaps with irony - underlines the "charge" against him before turning the trial around. What is his challenge to the authorities in 4:10?
 - What do you think about what he says?
- How does he underline the challenge in 4:11?
 - What contemporary illustration would make this point?
 - How do individuals continue in the same error today?
- What is Peter's conclusion in 4:12?
 - How would this resonate in the context of your culture and friends?

REFLECT

- Through these passages, how does Peter emphasise the necessity of response to the message of Jesus?
 - Are we looking for response from those around us?

"ROMAN ROAD" - key passages summarising the Gospel in Romans

1:20 "...since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made..."

3:23 "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

8:1 "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus..."

10:10 & 13 "it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved... 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

TRY

- Using the passages above, explain the message of Jesus to the person next to you - point out the call for a personal response.
- If a person asked you to help them to pray to receive Jesus as their Saviour, what would you say? How would you do this? What would then be important for them as new followers of Christ?

PRAYER

- Pray again for those you named in the first week of these studies.
- Pray that we would call for and see response from those we share with.
- Pray that we would be ambassadors, filled with the Spirit of God who effectively proclaim His message and see His revolution touch, liberate and change those around us.