

# THE BOOK OF *Acts*

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

May 21, 2023

## THE POWERFUL NAME OF JESUS

1

Peter uses the same strategy as after the appearance of the Holy Spirit--he responds to the astonishment of the crowds with a short sermon. What does he emphasize in his speech? What does he downplay?

2

Does Peter's strategy provide a model for our own evangelistic efforts? Are there things we should be careful to emphasize and other things we should strive to downplay?

3

Peter stresses that the lame man is not walking because of his or John's power, but also not because of their piety. What would be the distinction between power and piety here? Why would Peter be careful to disclaim both in this situation?

4

Are we ever prone to expect God to act because of our own piety? To what extent can we attribute blessings in someone's life to their piety? What should be the right understanding of the role of piety in the believer's relationship with God?

5

Peter describes Jesus using three titles: God's servant, the Holy and Righteous One, and Author of life. Why does Peter choose these three titles in this context? What does each point to concerning Jesus' identity?

6

Are there other names or titles of Jesus that Peter could have used? Are there names and titles of Jesus that you emphasize in thinking and talking about Jesus? How does that shape your conception of who he is?

7

Peter explains the miracle of the lame man walking by attributing it to Jesus' name, specifically faith in Jesus' name, and even more specifically the faith that is through Jesus. What is the difference between faith in Jesus and faith through Jesus? Why is the name of Jesus central to this act?

8

How might Peter's explanation of how this miracle occurred serve as an analogue to how spiritual healing occurs? Could you use the same language to describe your own salvation?

