

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **October 20, 2019** sermon, "The Author of Life." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 3:11-26) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE REDIRECT ATTENTION TOWARD CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION, NOTE . . .

1. God's plan for Christ (11-16)
 - a. Peter's listeners had killed Jesus, but God raised him from the dead (15).
 - b. Peter asked the question: "Why?" Why do you wonder? Why do you stare? (12)
 - i. As Peter explains what has happened, he emphasizes the power of Jesus.
 - ii. Peter is careful to point out that neither he nor John did anything (12).
 - c. We must learn to bring the conversation back to the person and power of Jesus Christ.
2. God's promise in Christ (17-24)
 - a. Jesus Christ was the subject of the prophecies of the Older Testament.
 - b. Since Christ fulfilled the long-expected promises of God, each of us must
 - i. "Repent," or "turn back" from our own efforts to save ourselves.
 - ii. "Return to" (19) trusting God alone, so that our sins will be eternally erased.
3. God's purpose through Christ (25-26)
 - a. Jesus himself is the ultimate "offspring of Abraham" who has blessed all the families of the earth. This is the same language as Genesis 12:3.
 - b. Jesus was sent to the "Jews first," but he was sent to bless "all the families of the earth."

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Peter saw that his listeners were in "wonder and awe" at this immediate (but temporary) miracle. He quickly explained that his listeners should not be looking only at the temporary, but instead at the power that Jesus has to deliver everyone who trusts him forever. What are the immediate and temporary things that make your friends "amazed" and "in awe"? How can you "direct the conversation" toward the eternal? What questions are effective in getting our generation to think about God's power?
2. Based on #1, above: Peter was constantly focused on the power, sufficiency and life-giving reality that only Jesus can provide. How can you develop a more every-day, laser-like focus on the power and sufficiency of Jesus? What lesser things often distract you?
3. Based on #1, above: Give one example of how you have turned a conversation toward Jesus Christ in the past month. What really "works"? What doesn't work?
4. Based on #2, above: Now that Jesus has arrived, it is evident that Peter is convincing the religious people that their religion is not sufficient. It's not good enough that many of our friends are religious. They must turn to Jesus Christ alone. How does this truth fuel your prayer life and focus on "turning the conversation from the temporary to the eternal"?
5. Based on this week's sermon: Who are you going to be in contact with this Thanksgiving/Christmas that we can begin praying for now? How can we pray for you? How can you focus LESS on their "temporary" stuff, and MORE on the eternal power of Jesus in your conversations?