

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, April 21, 2024 (Easter 4)

Acts 4:5-12

Discussion Starters

1. What was the purpose for the question asked by the religious leaders (v. 7)? What did they hope to accomplish by asking it?
2. If you were one of the religious leaders, what would have been your reaction to the bold response offered by Peter?
3. This inquisition by the religious leaders was in response to the healing of the beggar (Acts 3:1-11). What claims about Jesus did Peter make to these religious leaders?
4. What does the text mean when it describes Peter as "filled with the Holy Spirit" (v. 8)? What that "filling" just for that particular moment or an ongoing thing for Peter?
5. How would you describe the attitude of Peter and John as they appeared before the religious authorities? What does that teach you about a proper response for Christians today?

1 John 3:16-24

Discussion Starters

1. Based on the teachings of this passage, what do you think the first century Christians were encountering from the world? From each other?
2. What is John's definition of "love?"
3. What does it mean that "God is greater than our hearts?" What does it mean for our hearts to "condemn" us?
4. What are the pre-requisites to asking and receiving from God?

John 10:11-18

Discussion Starters

1. What is a hireling? How is he different from the good shepherd?
2. Who are the "other sheep" that will be invited to the fold?
3. What does it mean that Jesus "knows" His sheep and His sheep know Him? How does God "know" us?
4. How do you "hear" the voice of the Good Shepherd? How do you discern His voice from all the other voices that try to get your attention?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?