

Power!

Acts 3; 4:1-33; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 57-71

Sven and Karina lived in Sweden many years ago. While still children, they learned that Jesus is coming soon. Their mother and father began to share this good news with others. But it was against the law in Sweden for grown-ups to preach that Jesus is coming soon. So they were put in prison for breaking that law.

The people who believed that Jesus is coming soon prayed for courage. God's Holy Spirit filled Sven and Karina. Even though they were children, they preached God's message boldly. The Holy

Spirit gave them courage to do so. But they were not the first. Our Bible story today is about some early church members who prayed together for courage to preach Jesus' message.

Peter and John squinted their eyes against the bright sunlight. Deep breaths of fresh air felt good as they were led from the prison. They looked at each other and smiled. It was good to be outdoors again, even for a short time.

A special meeting of the most important men in the country would take place that day.

And Peter and John had been ordered to be there. Who knew what would happen? But they were not afraid. They knew that God would be with them.

Everyone hushed as Peter and John entered the room. Robes rustled. Men shifted to get a better view. Then one of the leaders cleared his throat and began. "How did you do this? What power do you have, or whose name did you use?"

The leader was talking about the miracle that Peter and John had done in Jesus' name the day before. A well-known lame man had been healed. And everybody was talking about it. Many people who heard about the miracle also heard Peter and John's message. They now believed in Jesus. Because of this, the Jewish leaders were not happy!



The Message

At church we learn of
God's power in our lives.

Memory Verse

*"They were all filled
with the Holy Spirit
and spoke of the word
of God boldly"*

(Acts 4:31, NIV).

Peter quietly looked around at the rulers. He was a different man from the Peter who had denied knowing Jesus just a few days ago. Now he was filled with the Holy Spirit. He began to speak. "We are being called to account today for an act of kindness to a man who could not walk. You ask us how this happened. Know this: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that he was healed. Yes, Jesus, the One whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead."

Peter continued boldly on. "Salvation is found in no one else. For there is no other name by which we must be saved." (See Acts 4:8-12.)

The rulers looked amazed. Why, the man spoke without fear! Clearly and boldly! Those leaders soon decided that Peter and John had been changed because they had been with Jesus.

What should they do? They couldn't say that the miracle hadn't happened. The man who had been lame was standing right there! And he certainly wasn't lame anymore! There was a bounce in his step and a smile on his face. He knew he had been healed!

The rulers finally decided to order Peter and John not to talk about it. But Peter and John stood firm and said, "Is it right to obey you rather than God?"

Once again Peter and John were warned, even more strongly. Then they were set free. The rulers were afraid to punish them. Too many people in the city were praising God for what had happened.

Peter and John returned to the place where the believers were gathered. They all joined together in prayer, asking for power to speak out boldly, and for more miracles through the name of Jesus. And God heard and answered their prayers. At once, the meeting place shook like an earthquake. But it wasn't an earthquake. It was the Holy Spirit filling everyone there. And after that they all began to preach God's message with great courage.



S A B B A T H

DO With your family, go someplace outdoors and look for things that show God's power, such as a mighty waterfall. Or, watch a thunder and lightning storm from inside. Read your Bible lesson story together. Pray for God's power in your life.

READ Find and read Acts 4:31 in your Bible.

S U N D A Y

DO During family worship read together Acts 3:1-9. To find out how it feels to be lame, bandage a stick to your leg, above and below the knee. Walk around the room as you sing together "He's Able" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 40).

DO Teach your memory verse to your family.

M O N D A Y

SHARE Together with your family, read more of your lesson story in Acts 4:1-22. Choose a way you and your family can witness to someone this week. Make plans to do so. Pray about your plans.

DO Make red, orange, and/or yellow flame-shaped cutouts. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Mix them up and try to put them in the right order.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read Acts 4:23-33 during worship today. Where did Peter and John go after they were released from prison? (verse 23). Remember, your church is a community of believers. How many Adventist churches are in your state or province? Pray for your pastor.

SHARE Discuss with your family: What do you like best about your church? What are your favorite activities? How does church help you to serve Jesus better? Read in Acts 1:8 about the power that God gives His church to serve Him.

DO Arrange your memory verse cutouts in the right order and say it to an adult.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO When did all the people in Peter and John's church become filled with the Holy Spirit? What did they do then? Read Acts 4:31. With your family, pray that the Holy Spirit will fill you with courage and power as you witness to someone this week. Ask your family when they have felt the Holy Spirit leading them.

DO Say your memory verse to someone in your family.

T H U R S D A Y

DO Make a fan out of thick paper. Try to move a pencil or other small object by making a breeze with your fan. What happens? Next, use an electric fan. What happens? The electric fan is like the power of the Holy Spirit. It gets work done. How is electricity like God's power? Which is stronger? Read Zechariah 4:6.

SHARE What would happen if your whole family prayed for Holy Spirit power? What might happen if you and your friends prayed daily for Holy Spirit power for your church? To answer that question, say your memory verse.

DO Sing "Give Me Oil My Lamp" (Sing for Joy, No. 132) before prayer.

F R I D A Y

DO For family worship, have a "church service" about the Holy Spirit. Include a song service, Bible reading, short sermon, offering, etc. Sing songs about the Holy Spirit. Read together Acts 1:8; 4:31; and 2 Timothy 1:7.

DO During the "sermon" time ask each family member to tell about a way the Holy Spirit's power helped them witness to someone this week. Invite each family member to sign a card that says: "With God's help I choose to study my Bible and pray for the Holy Spirit every day."

Power!

PUZZLE

Directions: To find the key to this lesson, write the first letter of the item pictured. The answer is found in Acts 4:29, NIV.



Answer: Speak God's word with great boldness.

Beggars like the lame man gathered at the entrances to the temple because it was a good place to ask for money.

