

PURPOSE RESTORED

THE POINT

Through Jesus, we can be forgiven and restored to the purpose for which He created us.

Acts 3:14-26 (CSB)

¹⁴ You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the source of life, whom God raised from the dead; we are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in his name, his name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. So the faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in front of all of you. ¹⁷ “And now, brothers and sisters, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your leaders also did. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had predicted through all the prophets—that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰ that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus, who has been appointed for you as the Messiah. ²¹ Heaven must receive him until the time of the restoration of all things, which God spoke about through his holy prophets from the beginning. ²² Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to everything he tells you. ²³ And everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be completely cut off from the people. ²⁴ “In addition, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, have also foretold these days. ²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your ancestors, saying to Abraham, And all the families of the earth will be blessed through your offspring. ²⁶ God raised up his servant and sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your evil ways.”

Acts 3:14-26 (KJV)

¹⁴ But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; ¹⁵ And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. ²⁰ And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: ²¹ Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. ²² For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. ²³ And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. ²⁴ Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. ²⁵ Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. ²⁶ Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

TEACHING PLAN

GET INTO THE STUDY

OPENING QUESTION: What would you say is the hardest thing you had to apologize for in order to restore a relationship?

- What made the apology so difficult?
- Describe how the relationship changed after the apology. Was it restored instantly or did it take time to rebuild it?
- While restoration in our relationships here on earth tend to take time to rebuild, when we come to Christ apologizing for our sin, the relationship is restored instantly.
- In this session, we will discover that when we come to Christ, our purpose is restored.

OPTIONAL IDEA: See page 20 for a creative way to introduce the session.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Acts 3:14-18

Jesus restores when we place our faith in Him.

Perfect faith is only available through Him.

- Use information from “The Setting” to help set the scene which this passage describes about Peter and the lame man.
- Using information from the paragraphs that begin “The central element” through “Notice the stark contrast,” point out the contrasting language that Peter used to describe Jesus and the purpose that Jesus fulfilled in rising from the dead.
- Say: The lame man was made whole because of his faith.
- Ask: What part does faith play in our restoration to God? In what ways did God have the last word in this passage? In what ways will God have the last word again someday?
- Say: Fullness of life and defeat of death come through faith in Jesus Christ.

Acts 3:19-21

Jesus forgives and refreshes us when we repent of our sin.

True forgiveness can only be found when repentance happens.

- Using information from the paragraph that begins with “As to the questions,” explain the sequence of events that take place when we repent of our sins to God. Expand on the definition of what it means to have our sins “blotted out/wiped out.”
- Using information from the paragraph that begins “The remainder,” explain what Peter was referring to when he said “when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord/that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”
- Ask: How has repentance and turning to God brought times of refreshment in your life?
- Ask: What does it mean to you to know that the Messiah has been sent and appointed for you?
- Ask: What does it mean in verse 21 when it says “Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things/Heaven must receive him until the time of the restoration of all things”?
- Use information from the paragraph that begins “Repentance brings forgiveness” to draw out the truth that Jesus is coming again and that the message has been preached throughout all of Scripture.
- Say: Forgiveness allows us to enjoy immediate spiritual refreshment and restoration.

Acts 3:22-26

Only Jesus can bring us back to God.

Jesus’s purpose for coming was to turn us back to God.

- Ask: Why should people respond to Jesus?

- Use the information from the paragraph that begins “In these verses” to help draw out the truth of why people then and people today still need to respond to Jesus in repentance.
- Using information from the paragraph that begins “A prophet/The Lord your God,” help the group understand who Moses was referring to when he said a prophet will rise up.
- Explain: Refusal to hear from the word of the Lord has devastating effects.
- Use the information from the paragraphs that begin “Moreover” through “Such rejection” to help explain Moses meant when he said, “Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you/You must listen to everything he tells you” and what he meant by “destroyed from among the people/completely cut off from the people.”
- Ask: When did you respond to the message of repentance for your sins and turning to God? In what ways has He restored you as a result?
- Emphasize that God calls out His children to be a blessing to the world.

DIG DEEPER: Review and share the teaching idea on the next page to aid in your discussion.

LIVE IT OUT

Just like the crowd that Peter was addressing in this passage, the world in which we live today still needs the same message.

- People still need to turn to Jesus in repentance so that their sins may be forgiven.
- Restoration is only possible when we listen to and act upon what God says in His Word.
- Jesus is coming again one day and only those who have responded to His Word, repented, and turned to Him will experience the presence of the Lord as never before.

notes



BEGGARS

Learn about the nature and treatment of beggars in the first century.

OPTIONAL IDEA

Prior to your group time, obtain copies of a witnessing tract such as “Steps To Peace With God” or “Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws.”

Gather enough copies for each person to have two. If you are not familiar with the use of a tract, spend some time practicing so that you will be able to use it during the session. Place a large sheet of paper on the wall along with a marker.

As you conclude this session, distribute one copy of a tract to each person. Guide the group through the tract, taking time to answer questions that may come up.

Don't assume that everyone in the group has made the decision to follow Christ.

As you conclude with the tract, extend the opportunity for anyone that hasn't yet made the decision to accept Christ as the Lord and Savior.

Distribute the second copy of a tract with each person. Encourage them to use the tract during the coming week to share with someone they come in contact with.

Just like the prophets of old shared the news about the coming of the Messiah, we too must continue to spread the good news about who Jesus is and that one day He is coming again.

As you bring this time to a close, ask the group for names of people they already know that don't have a relationship with Jesus. Write the names on the large sheet of paper.

When volunteers have finished sharing names, spend some time praying for each name specifically to be open to the message of Christ and for each member to be bold and share the message of Christ with them.

DIG DEEPER

After Peter and John healed the lame man at the gate, they were met with amazement. People began assuming that the two apostles were primarily responsible for the healing miracle.

Peter, as was his custom, was quick to redirect the attention away from them and to Jesus. After a harsh condemnation on the Jews for killing Jesus and releasing a murderer, Peter gave them the solution.

In verse 19, the transition is indicated by the word “therefore.” Peter is connecting it back to chapter 2, especially verse 38.

But, in this instance there is no mention of baptism, only repentance. *Repentance* is a word that has often been misunderstood and misapplied.

Today, it is generally used as an expression of regret or being sorry. But that doesn't go far enough to capture what is meant.

The Greek word *metanoeo* does not mean to be sorry for sin or to turn from sin. Those are actually the results from repentance (Luke 3:8).

For example, in the Old Testament, God repents. In fact, in the KJV, the word repent occurs 46 times and 37 of those it is God who is repenting.

If we take repentance to mean sorry for sin, then God would be a sinner. True repentance and faith go hand in hand. The sinner who was so self consumed has now done an about-face and is fully trusting in God for salvation. That's true biblical repentance.