

Introduction:

Today we will look at the opportunity given to Peter for *explaining the Gospel*.

Things we will look at in this lesson:

Part One: Exalting Jesus

Part Two: Extending God's Forgiveness

Part One: Exalting Jesus:

01. What can signs of God's power point to?

02. Rather than taking credit for the miracle, what did Peter do?

Figure 1)

Peter's Description of Jesus	Acts
The One whom God raised from the dead	4:10
The cornerstone which the builders rejected	4:11
The only One who can save sinners	4:12

03. What should our heart's desire be?

04. How are people's lives changed?

05. What happens when Christians exalt Christ and His sacrifice?

06. Who did Peter tell the hearers in Solomon's Colonnade, that Jesus was?

07. In what two ways did Peter emphasize the heinous nature of this deed?

08. What did Peter contrast the shameful way the people had treated Jesus with?

09. How did God glorify Christ?

10. Who is charged with the crucifixion of Christ?

11. When God uses someone, what do they have to be careful not to do?

Part Two: Extending God's Forgiveness:

12. How could sins of ignorance be forgiven in the Old Testament?

13. What does "sins of a high hand" refer to?

14. How had God chosen to view their deliberate sin?

15. What did Peter call on his audience to do?

Article 1)

Repent and Turn Back:

God has chosen to bless his people by generously filling them with the Holy Spirit. The conditions for receiving this gift are true repentance (i.e., admitting and turning from our own sinful ways and the corrupt ways of the world; Matthew 3:1-2), turning toward God (i.e., entrusting our lives to him and surrendering to his purposes), listening to everything that Christ, the “prophet”, tells us (Acts. 3:22–23, particularly through his Word) and always striving to obey Christ (Acts 2:38–41; 5:29–32). The basic meaning of repentance (Gk *metanoeō*) is “to turn around”—to make a complete change. It is turning away from evil and turning toward God through faith in Christ (Jn 14:1, 6; Ac 8:22; 26:18; 1Pe 2:25). True repentance leads to spiritual salvation and a personal relationship with God. Such repentance involves changing our attitude toward God, admitting our sin, turning from our own way, submitting to Christ's leadership and beginning to follow God's plans for our lives.

(1) The decision to turn from sin, which is rebellion against God, in order to receive spiritual salvation involves accepting Christ as both Savior (who rescues us from the penalty of sin) and as Lord—the highest authority over our lives. Therefore, repentance involves a change of leaders (lords) in one's life: from the lordship of Satan and self (Eph 2:2) to the lordship of Christ and his Word (Ac 26:18).

(2) Repentance is an opportunity for all sinners to make the choice to turn from sin and turn to God. It is made possible by the grace (i.e., undeserved favor and love) God has shown us through the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ. The lives of those who hear and accept his message will be spiritually renewed (made alive) and changed (Ac 11:21). But we all must take advantage of the opportunity and make the decision to follow Christ for ourselves.

(3) True saving faith—the kind that brings us back into a personal and eternal relationship with God—involves more than simply believing and agreeing in your mind that Christ is the Savior. Just as genuine repentance requires a change of direction and behavior, real faith in God also requires action. A person puts faith into action by breaking away from sin and deciding in his or her heart to live in such a way that his or her character and lifestyle please God. Any other teaching of Christian faith is a misrepresentation of the Biblical message about believing in and following Christ. Faith that includes repentance is always a condition for spiritual salvation (Mk 1:15; Lk 13:3, 5; Ac 2:38; 3:19; 11:21).

(4) Repentance was a basic message of Old Testament prophets (Jer 7:3; Eze 18:30; Joel 2:12–14; Mal 3:7), John the Baptist (Mt 3:2), Jesus Christ (Mt 4:17; 18:3; Lk 5:32) and New Testament Christians (Ac 2:38; 8:22; 11:18; 2Pe 3:9). The challenge and opportunity to repent must always be included whenever one is preaching the gospel message—the “good news” about forgiveness and new life available through Christ (Lk 24:47).

16. How did Peter end his sermon?

17. Who does God extend forgiveness to?
