

Small Group Guide

Acts 3:11-26 | Confronting Sin, Offering Hope

Before You Meet

Encourage group members to read Acts 3:11-26 before gathering. Ask them to come prepared to share one thing from the passage that stood out to them.

Opening Question

Matthew opened with a story about being caught stealing a push pop as a child. Think of a time you were caught doing something you knew was wrong. How did you respond in that moment -- with defensiveness, shame, or honesty?

Key Takeaways

1. Sin Is Confronted: Peter does not soften his message to the crowd. He directly names their role in crucifying Jesus, the Holy and Righteous One. The light of Christ exposes who we truly are at our core, and when that happens, we only have two options: acknowledge the truth and allow God to begin healing, or retreat further into darkness.

2. Christ Is Proclaimed: Peter anchors his message in the full sweep of Scripture -- Moses, Isaiah, Samuel, and the Abrahamic covenant all point to Jesus. The fulfillment of these promises is not just a historical fact but a present assurance: God keeps his word, even when our circumstances make that hard to believe.

3. Grace Is Offered. The confrontation of sin is never the end of the story. Peter extends a genuine invitation to repentance—not merely saying sorry, but truly turning away from sin and toward God. With that turning comes the promise of forgiveness, seasons of refreshing

from God's presence, and the future hope of full restoration at Christ's return.

Discussion Questions

On Sin Being Confronted

1. Matthew described how all of us have built up layers to hide what lies beneath the surface. What are some of the common ways people try to hide their sin -- from others, from themselves, and even from God?
2. John 3:18-20 describes people loving darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. In what areas of life do you find it most difficult to let the light of Christ fully in? What makes those areas feel off-limits?
3. Matthew asked honestly: "Are you allowing yourself to be fully known by Christ, or is there a part of yourself you are trying to hide from the light?" Take a moment to sit

with that question as a group. How would you answer it?

On Christ Being Proclaimed

4. Peter traces the promise of Jesus all the way back through Moses, the prophets, and Abraham. How does understanding Jesus as the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament change the way you read Scripture or think about God's character?
5. Matthew made the point that most of us have no problem agreeing that God is faithful in theory, but that our day-to-day lives tell a different story. Where is it hardest for you to trust that God keeps his word? What circumstances tend to make you feel like you might be the exception to God's faithfulness?
6. Romans 8:28-30 was referenced in the sermon. How have you seen God work things together for good in your own life, even in situations that were painful or confusing at the time?

On Grace Being Offered

7. The pastor described a pattern of cleaning his room only when punishment arrived, then letting it get messy again -- and compared this to a shallow version of repentance. What is the difference between genuine repentance and simply saying sorry? What does true turning away from sin actually look like in daily life?
8. The promise of "seasons of refreshing" from God's presence was described as both a present and future reality. Have you experienced what it feels like to be refreshed by God in the middle of a hard season? What did that look like?
9. Matthew asked: "Have I ever truly surrendered before the Lord?" How would you describe the difference between intellectual agreement with the gospel and genuine surrender to Christ?

Practical Applications

This Week, Choose One:

- **Honest Inventory:** Set aside 15-20 minutes in a quiet place to ask God to reveal any area of your life where you have been hiding from his light. Write down what comes to mind and bring it to him in prayer.
- **Trust Exercise:** Identify one circumstance in your life right now where trusting God feels difficult. Write out Romans 8:28-30 and place it somewhere you will see it daily throughout the week.
- **Genuine Repentance:** If there is a pattern of sin in your life that you have been apologizing for without truly turning from, talk with a trusted believer or your pastor about what real accountability and change might look like.
- **Share the Message:** The pastor closed by asking who you can share this message of

hope, healing, and restoration with. Identify one person in your life who needs to hear it and take a concrete step toward that conversation this week.

- Kingdom Question: Each morning this week, ask yourself the question the pastor posed: "How can I bring about the kingdom of God today?" Keep it small and specific -- one person, one moment, one conversation.

Closing Thought

Peter stood before a crowd that had participated in the crucifixion of Jesus and did not soften the truth to make them comfortable. But he also did not leave them without hope. The same message that exposes sin is the message that offers forgiveness, restoration, and the promise of a coming day when all things will be made new. That is a treasure worth sharing.

Closing Prayer

Close your time together by praying for one another in three areas: the courage to be fully known by Christ, the faith to trust God's word in hard seasons, and the boldness to share this message with someone who needs it.