

OCTOBER 11, 2026

SERIES 2: CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

LESSON 2.2: HIS CHURCH IS MARCHING ON

TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God established His church to come together and reveal Him to the world.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will seek the first-century church's power in my day.

LESSON TEXT ACTS 4:13–35

KEY PASSAGE ACTS 4:20

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

TEACHING OUTLINE

ICEBREAKER: What is something unexplainable, possibly even miraculous, that has happened in your life?

TEACHER TIP: Connect the group's answers to show that God often works miracles in response to the prayers and faith of His church.

CONNECT: Share the Connect segment. **(I)**

I. THE BOOK OF ACTS CHURCH

A. The Disciples Used in the Miraculous

DISCUSS: *Why do you think this public miracle is the way God began working miracles through His disciples in the Book of Acts?*

B. The Disciples' Testimony

C. The Church's Prayer and Care for One Another

D. I will testify to others about the things I hear and see God do.

II. THE CHURCH TODAY

A. Today's Church Used in the Miraculous **(V)**

DISCUSS: *How can you be part of the miracles God wants to work? What miracles have you already seen? What would you like to see?*

B. Today's Church Needs to Gather Together

C. Today's Church's Prayer and Care for One Another

DISCUSS: *How can you show care for another member of the body of Christ?*

D. I will seek the first-century church's power in my day.

APPLY: Share the Apply segment.

PRAYER FOCUS

Lead the group in prayer for God to help us recognize that we are a continuation of the Book of Acts church and to realize we have access to that same power and authority when we continue to walk in covenant with Him.

CONNECT

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS ARE incredibly powerful. Think of the difference between hearing a story and experiencing it for yourself. Many times we hear the firsthand account of a car accident or some other tragedy, but it never truly impacts us the way it would if we had witnessed it with our own eyes. The stories we hear retold by those who were there can impact our lives, but the moments we experience personally change our lives forever.

(I) DISPLAY IMAGE NOW

Many people have heard of the grandeur of the Grand Canyon but have never experienced it for themselves. Of those who have heard how magnificent the canyon is, a significant number of them have only seen photos or short videos that give a brief snapshot of how massive it is. If a picture really is worth a thousand words, then all the books in all the world could not possibly print the right wondrous words you would say if you stood on the rim of the canyon yourself. You cannot feel the wind in a picture or hear the returning echo that seems to reverberate endlessly through the vast corridors that lie below. Even an eyewitness account is just no comparison to experiencing such majesty for yourself. Nothing else can really do it justice.

Imagine being an early pioneer in North America traveling from the East Coast to the unsettled, gold-rich ground of California. As you move westward, you begin to hear stories of a great gash in the earth. The stories seem so fabled. There's no way such a place could exist. You've heard the warnings, but you simply cannot wrap your mind around the idea of such a canyon. It is a place where the earth opens as though it has swallowed the land itself. The stories start weighing on you. *What if such a place really does exist?* Perhaps traveling in the dark is not such a good idea.

The closer you get to the canyon, the more stories you hear. As day breaks, you begin your journey westward again, the same as the day before, but something is different on this day. The culmination of every story you have heard is about to rush in. Your horses suddenly stop and refuse to move forward. Aggravated, you climb down from your canvas-covered wagon to investigate the problem. As you walk just twenty more yards, the earth suddenly opens, and you're standing nearly nine thousand feet above the bottom of the canyon. You stand breathless in disbelief. The stories were true, but you had to experience it for yourself.

If that is true in our natural world, then how much truer is it when we consider the spiritual? You can hear about how God works in the lives of other people, but it is so much more powerful when you experience His peace, love, and power for yourself. Some try to explain it away when it happens to someone else, but when a miracle happens in your life, there is just no denying it. It is no longer a rumor or just another campfire story; it is a life-changing experience. When you witness it with your own eyes and experience it yourself, the question mark is quickly replaced by a defining exclamation point.

LEARN

I. THE BOOK OF ACTS CHURCH

The Book of Acts church is characteristically defined by the fact that they experienced the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit firsthand. The apostle Peter, in his second letter, explained that he and the other disciples were eyewitnesses (II Peter 1:16). The Book of Acts records the signs, wonders, and miracles God worked through the apostles. They were not just repeating what they had heard from other people. The disciples were eyewitnesses to the wonder-working power of God's Spirit.

A. The Disciples Used in the Miraculous

When Jesus chose His disciples, He didn't choose people who would just sit back and watch Him work. Jesus chose people who would eventually get involved in the work with Him. He only had three years to teach, train, and touch the lives of His disciples. The fact that the first-century Christians turned their world upside down after His departure should tell us that those three years of intentional discipleship were incredibly meaningful (Acts 17:6). They understood their assignment. Jesus called His disciples, not simply to walk alongside Him while He was on the earth, but to continue His work afterward. They were called out to be part of His mission; they were called out to get involved in the work. The Book of Acts provides twenty-eight chapters of men and women who chose to get involved in the work and fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ.

The miracle of Acts 3 set the stage for the world's response in Acts 4. Peter and John were on their way to the Temple for prayer, and they encountered a lame man asking for donations. Perhaps the disciples dealt with some of the same thoughts we do. It probably would have been easier to walk right by the man, even dropping in a few spare coins as they quickly passed. However, when you've walked with Jesus, it is hard to just walk by needs, especially knowing Jesus is moved with compassion to meet those needs. Maybe they remembered when Jesus had sent them out with no money and they had witnessed the miraculous when they stopped trusting in what they could do.

We don't know exactly what went through their minds, but we know they decided to get involved. After a short prayer but a powerful answer, the lame man was completely healed. The man who daily had lain at the gate by the Temple, begging for money, immediately jumped up and ran into the Temple to worship the God who healed him. This miracle marks the first of many the Lord worked through the disciples after His resurrection and their new-birth experience. This miracle was one no one could deny.

DISCUSS: *Why do you think this public miracle is the way God began working miracles through His disciples in the Book of Acts?*

B. The Disciples' Testimony

Acts 4 opens with Peter and John publicly testifying to the people in Jerusalem about how this miracle was even possible. From birth, the man was unable to use his legs, but suddenly he was walking, leaping, and praising God. He was a living testimony that Jesus still heals, meaning Jesus was still alive. The working of miracles always seems to stir up something inside the doubters. Luke recorded, "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, and preached

through Jesus the resurrection from the dead” (Acts 4:1–2).

It was more than the skeptics could stand. They had Peter and John thrown into jail and held until morning. Peter and John were persecuted and imprisoned for preaching a resurrected Christ and for praying for miracles in the name of Jesus. The setting did not seem to make sense. The lame man was standing and leaping, yet Peter and John were bound and in prison. The priests and Sadducees should have been rejoicing; instead, they were scheming. But no matter how many prison doors the disciples were locked behind, and no matter how many charges were leveled against them, the crowds still believed on Jesus.

Acts 4:5–7 declares: “And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, and Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?” How was this miracle possible? What an opportunity for a testimony! Peter wasted no time responding to the question. He confirmed that this wonder was only possible “by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth” (verse 10). Not so subtly, Peter reminded his religious audience that they crucified Jesus, but God raised Him from the dead.

C. The Church’s Prayer and Care for One Another

The public testimony of this miracle could not be silenced. Too many people walked by the Temple every day to deny what had happened. They had witnessed a man who could never walk, but now you would not know he used to be disabled. This testimony became a point of persecution for Peter and John. But when the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high court, could no longer hold Peter and John, these two faith-filled apostles made their way back to their church family and shared the good news of all God was doing (Acts 4:23).

The disciples of Jesus prayed together, and they spoke the word of God boldly and without reservation. Their prayer shook the place where they assembled together (verse 31). The common theme is they were together. They cared for and prayed for each other. If they saw someone was in need, they helped any way they could. They were the church, the body of Christ. They recognized that when one of them suffered, they all suffered. When one of them was being persecuted, they were all being persecuted. They were the church together.

D. I will testify to others about the things I hear and see God do.

Inside every one of us is the potential to be a witness of the wonders we have heard and seen God do. We have been promised power after we receive the Holy Ghost, and that power is to help us be witnesses in our world (Acts 1:8). We are able to testify the same as Peter and John: “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20).

II. THE CHURCH TODAY

The church today has access to the same name and the same power as the first-century church. When we receive God’s Spirit, we receive power to become witnesses on the job, in our communities, and in our homes. The same God who performed miracles through the disciples in the Book of Acts is the same God who will work miracles

through His church today. It has been stated there is no amen at the end of Acts 28 because we are a continuation of the first-century church.

A. Today's Church Used in the Miraculous

God can and will use men and women today just as He used them in the New Testament. Jesus gave a specific promise to His disciples when He walked with them, and that promise is still resonating with us today. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). The miraculous didn't stop at the end of the Book of Acts. God wants to use His church today in the miraculous.

(V) PLAY VIDEO NOW

DISCUSS: *How can you be part of the miracles God wants to work? What miracles have you already seen? What would you like to see?*

B. Today's Church Needs to Gather Together

The writer of Hebrews called for all God's people to assemble: "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24–25). If he considered it paramount in his day, how much more significant is it for us today? We live nearly two thousand years later. As the return of the Lord draws closer, we should be drawing closer together, not being pushed apart.

We need services where we worship together and hear the Word of God together. We need times of fellowship where we break bread and spend time getting to know each other. We need prayer meetings where we seek God together and pray for each other. The church is referred to as a body, a bride, and a family. No one can "push our buttons" like family can, but no one can comfort us and console us like family can either. In this passage in Hebrews 10, the writer admonished us to exhort one another. In this context, exhorting means to console or encourage. We could use a lot more of that in the church today. The voice coming from the pulpit can console and encourage, but what if a voice from the pew offered that same gift of encouragement? We need each other now more than ever. Let's gather together and encourage each other.

C. Today's Church's Prayer and Care for One Another

The late T. F. Tenney once said, "We have captured the Apostolic doctrine, but not the Apostolic spirit." The first-century church strove for unity. Their unity is chronicled all through the Book of Acts. God's will is for His church today to strive for that same spirit of unity and love for one another. The basis of everything we do is love. As we get our love for God right, we must also get our love for others right. When we love others the way Christ loves us, we will care for one another. Love for God and love for His people are the motivation for discipleship and fellowship. We desire to be around other Christians because we love them and are part of the same body and family.

DISCUSS: *How can you show care for another member of the body of Christ?*

D. I will seek the first-century church's power in my day.

As we grow closer to God and each other, we will discover the name of Jesus has just as much power in the twenty-first century as in the first-century church. We have been given the exact same commission as the disciples of Jesus Christ: “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:15–18).

The miraculous will surely follow believers. The only question left is will you be part of His miracle ministry in the twenty-first century? Will you let God use you today? Will you, as a believer, pray with faith and lay hands on the sick? The miraculous power of the first-century believers is available to every believer today through the wonderful, all-powerful name of Jesus Christ.

TEACHER OPTION: *Tell the story below, or share one of your own to illustrate God wants to work miracles through us much like He worked through the first-century church.*

APPLY

“**THE BATTLE HYMN** of the Republic” is widely considered the most popular song during the United States Civil War. It was written by Julia Ward Howe. She was visiting Union Army camps near Washington, D.C., when she heard soldiers singing a popular song called “John Brown’s Body.” The song celebrated the abolitionist John Brown, but the lyrics were crude. She loved the tune, and that night she awoke with new words to accompany the existing melody.

Her poem was first published in *The Atlantic Monthly* in 1862 and quickly became an anthem for the North in the Civil War. The last line of the first verse is one of the most well-known lines of any song from any era: “His truth is marching on.” “The Battle Hymn” was first written, not as a song, but as simple words on a page to remind America that truth and righteousness will always prevail. Regardless of the societal pressures and the politically charged climate, “His truth is marching on.”

No question about it, God’s Word will stand forever. Truth will always prevail. And so will God’s church. There is no stopping place for the church, and there is no stopping place for the miraculous. Let us make up our minds to continue what started in the first-century church. Miracles did not stop at the end of the Book of Acts. God has not stopped using men and women, boys and girls. He’s looking for someone to work through. His name is just as powerful today as it was two thousand years ago. What miracle might be waiting on you?

Maybe coworkers are waiting for you to pray the prayer of faith over them. Maybe family members need you to speak a word from God into their lives. Perhaps a friend is in need of a home Bible study and the truth of salvation to receive the greatest miracle of all time—the gift of new birth. If you are a believer, the Word of God promises you can be used in the miraculous. You can continue the work of the first-century church.

Often, the miraculous will draw the world to the church. Let the world ask today, just as they did in Acts chapter 2: “What meaneth this?” (verse 12). Who in your life is ready to see God work a miracle for them? Will you continue what was started two thousand years ago? Will you join the heroes of faith and faithfulness and show the world who Jesus is?

His church is marching on.