

The Journey from Darkness to Light: Early Jerusalem
March 19, 2014

Introduction: When God saves a human soul, He delivers that person from the darkness of confusion, fear and doubt, and bestows the light of a new purpose, peace and presence in that person's life – “out of darkness into His wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).



1. “As you watched that video, which event did you find most miraculous?”
2. “Would the amazing events on the video have seemed less or more realistic if the setting had been the twenty-first century? Why?”
3. **Read Acts 2:42-3:10.**
4. “How is the description of the church's life and activity in Acts 2:42-47 different from the description of Jesus' followers in John 20:19? Why?”
5. “How is the description of the church's life and activity in Acts 2:41-47 similar to your church's life and activity? How is it different?”
6. “Notice that Acts 3:2 specifically mentions that the beggar had been crippled from birth. Why do you think that detail was included?”
7. “Notice what Peter said to the beggar in Acts 3:6. He had never said or done this before. What do you think Peter might have been thinking as he said those words?”
8. “What do you think the crippled beggar sitting in the shadow of the temple might have been thinking as he heard Peter's words?”
9. “Which do you think shows more faith, Peter commanding the beggar to get up and walk, or the beggar taking Peter's hand to stand up? Why?”
10. “The message theme this past Sunday was ‘Journey from Darkness to Light.’ How might his passage reflect the idea of God's gracious salvation leading people from darkness into light?”.
11. “Do you think the Jerusalem church—and Peter, in particular—had more faith or more power than we do today? Why or why not?”
12. “Do you think there are ways your church—and you, in particular—should be or can be more like these verses? If not, why not? If so, how?”

Point to remember: God has delivered us from the darkness of confusion, fear and doubt, and has bestowed upon us the light of a new purpose, peace and presence.

Memory Verse: “For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light” Ephesians 5:8

Reflection Time: Take some time to reflect on these questions, and write down any response below:

- ✓ What are ways that I can declare the praise of Him who has called me out of darkness into the marvelous light?

- ✓ What does the return of Christ mean to me? Am I ready?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I await you. I await the hour of your blessed return. I await the day when the redemption story finds fulfillment, and the truth, justice, mercy, and love of God reigns supreme in heaven and earth. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen!