

Acts 3:1-4:31

LESSON GOAL



The child will trust in Jesus' name for salvation.

BIBLE TRUTHS

Peter and John preached about Jesus. Peter and John healed a man's legs. Peter and John were told not to talk about Jesus.

KEY VERSE

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." $-Acts \ 4:12$

APPLICATION

Praise God for saving men.

Praise God for allowing you to hear about salvation. Share the good news about Jesus with others.

NEXT WEEK

Acts 4:32-5:11



Peter and John						
Preach the Gospel						

Teacher Planning Sheet

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	PREPARE				
	Objectives/Truths to cover this week				
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	Personal Application				
	As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to				
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	Three ways students need to apply this passage are				
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Materials	POINT				
	Choose from various ideas to point them to the coming Bible lesson.				
Needed:	۵				
	PROCLAIM				
	Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.				
	Presentation Ideas				
	- Praise/Music Ideas				
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	PRACTICE				
	- Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.				

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children." — Deuteronomy 11:18–19

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

Following Peter's Pentecost sermon, about three-thousand Jews repented of their sins and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Those baptized in Jesus' name proclaimed their identification with Jesus and admitted their dependence upon His authority and power to forgive sins. In biblical times, a person's name represented all that a person was. Because Jesus has all authority and power, the name of Jesus not only represents His character but also His authority and power.

The chief priests and elders were no doubt furious as they heard about more and more people being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. The murderers of Jesus hated Jesus' name because it was a continual proclamation of His authority. Not only did the chief priests and elder hate Jesus' name, but they also hated those who trusted in that name (just as Jesus promised they would in Luke 21:17). When the apostles performed a miracle in the temple, the chief priests and elders called them before the Sanhedrin to testify by what name they had acted. Regardless of the opposition, the apostles continued to proclaim Jesus' name as the only hope of salvation.

Healing in Jesus' Name (Acts 3:1-10)

The healing occurred when the apostles Peter and John went to the temple. It was three in the afternoon ("the ninth hour"), one of three times each day for prayer (3:1). Because the afternoon sacrifice was offered at this time, the temple was likely crowded with those who had come to observe the sacrifice and offer prayers. Although the text does not specify why Peter and John went to the temple, perhaps they had gone to pray and/or witness to Jesus' resurrection.

Just as the apostles were about to enter the temple through the gate called Beautiful (which most likely separated the Court of the Gentile from the Court of the Women), a lame beggar asked them for alms (a charitable donation of money) (Acts 3:3). The man had been lame since birth and had to be carried to the temple each day to beg (3:2). After getting the man's attention (3:4–5), Peter told him that he didn't have any money but that he would give what he did have (3:6). Peter then said to the man, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Peter performed the miracle in Jesus' name to demonstrate that Jesus alone had the power and authority to heal the man.

The crowds were amazed by what happened next. After Peter grabbed him by the hand, the man's "feet and ankle bones received strength" (Acts 1:7). The man not only walked but also "entered the temple with them—walking, leaping and praising God" (1:8). (When the man had been lame, he was not allowed into the temple [Lev. 21:17–20; 2 Sam. 5:8].) The people "were filled with wonder and amazement" (1:10) as they realized that the man they saw "walking and praising God" (1:9) was the same one who had been begging by the Beautiful Gate.

Testimony to Jesus' Name (Acts 3:11–26)

After leaving the temple, Peter addressed the amazed crowds under Solomon's portico, a large covered area outside the temple (Acts 3:11). When Peter explained the miracle to the crowds, he began by refocusing the object of their amazement. While the crowds had been staring at Peter and John, Peter told them that the miracle had not come about by their "own power or godliness" (3:12). The miracle had not because of anything special in themselves. Before telling them the source of the miracle, Peter continued by describing how God had glorified and resurrected Jesus from the dead (3:13–15). Peter bluntly contrasted God's glorifying of Jesus with the crowd's delivering of Jesus to Pilate, rejecting Jesus before Pilate, asking for the release of a murderer, and murdering of Jesus (3:13–15). Unlike the crowds who wickedly took Jesus' life, Jesus is described as God's "Servant," as the "Holy One and the Just," and the "Prince of Life." (The Prince of Life is a title which describes Jesus as the beginner of life.) No doubt, some of the crowd knew where Peter's sermon was headed. After declaring their guilt of rejecting God's servant, Peter announced that it was Jesus' power that had performed the miracle. Peter said, "His name...has made this man strong" (3:16). Because of the apostle's faith in Jesus' name ("through faith in His name"), the man had been healed.

The crowds must have been afraid as they realized that the Man they had killed had been resurrected by God and had power to heal...and destroy. Before calling upon them to repent, Peter encouraged the crowds that repentance was possible because they had acted in ignorance (3:17). He also explained that God had worked through their wickedness to accomplish His prophesied will that "Christ would suffer" (3:18). Peter then called on the crowds to repent and be converted (by turning to God) (3:19).

When Peter called on the crowds to repent, He encouraged them with the benefits of repentance. The first benefit would be that their sins would be "blotted out" (Acts 3:19). Only after repentance could their sins be forgiven, even the sin of killing God's Servant. The second benefit would be that "times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (3:19). The times of refreshing refer to the coming millennial kingdom and are synonymous with the "times of restoration of all things which God has spoken by the mouths of all His holy prophets since the world began" from verse 21 The third benefit is closely connected with the second: "that He may send Jesus Christ" (3:20). Because Christ will not return until Israel repents (Matthew 23:39; Romans 11:26; Zechariah 12:10-14:9), Peter pleaded for the Jews to repent so that Christ would return, establish His Kingdom, and bring with Him times of restoration. The fourth benefit was that they would avoid God's judgment for ignoring His Prophet (Acts 3:22–23). Peter quoted from Moses' prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:15,19 (supplemented by Leviticus 23:29) which warned against ignoring God's future Prophet, understood by Jews to be a reference to the Messiah. Not only does Moses testify to Christ but Peter points out that all the prophets foretold about Him (3:24). The basis of Peter's last appeal is that the Jews are in a covenant relationship with God because they were the descendants of Abraham. God had promised Abraham, "And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (3:25). Although all nations would be blessed by Abraham's descendant Jesus, God sent Jesus to bless Israel first by turning them away from their sins (3:26). Peter appealed to Israel not to miss out on God's promised blessing by not repenting (Luke 24:47).

Opposition to Jesus' Name (Acts 4:1–22)

While Peter and John preached in the temple, the religious leaders became worried and jealous. The priests who were serving in the temple (only a fraction of the priests served in the temple at any one time), the captain of the temple (the second

most important temple official in charge of temple security), and the Sadducees arrested Peter and John (4:1). The Sadducees were the most powerful religious sect in Israel. They were composed of aristocratic landowners who wanted relations with the Roman empire to remain stable. The leaders were "greatly disturbed that Peter and John taught the people," no doubt threatened by these untrained and unauthorized religious teachers (4:2). They were also offended that they "preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead" (4:3). While true that the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, the Sadducees must have been particularly annoyed that the apostles preached resurrection in Jesus. The Sadducees had killed Jesus because they were afraid Israel's stability would be jeopardized if the people followed Him (John 11:49–50). Even though Peter and John had been arrested, their preaching was still effective. God worked through Peter's sermon and there were now five thousand men who believed (Acts 4:4).

After spending the night in jail, Peter and John were questioned before the Sanhedrin the next day (Acts 4:5). The Sanhedrin was a seventy-one member council, consisting of the ruling priests, elders and scribes. Among those present were Annas, who had been high priest from A.D. 6–15, and the current high priest Caiaphas, both of whom had been involved in Jesus' conviction (John 18). They questioned the apostles, asking "By what power or by what name have you done this?" (Acts 4:7). The Sanhedrin wanted to know who the apostles represented, by what authority they preached in the temple, and by what power they had healed the man.

Just as Jesus had promised (Luke 12:11), the Holy Spirit taught the apostles how to respond. In submission to the Father's will and dependent upon Him, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and answered the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:8). He began his sermon by testifying that the man had been made well "by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...by Him this man stands here before you whole" (4:9–10). Similar to how Peter addressed the crowds the previous day, Peter began by explaining the source of the miracle but continued by declaring the death of Jesus at the hands of the Jews, by proclaiming God's resurrection of Jesus, and by demonstrating that Scripture had been fulfilled (4:10–11). Peter finished His sermon where He had started—with the name of Jesus. Peter concluded, saying, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Peter had not only proclaimed Jesus' power to heal the body but also proclaimed Him as the only who can save men's souls.

The Sanhedrin was confused how to respond to the apostles. They could only marvel at these "uneducated and untrained men" who spoke with such "boldness" (Acts 4:13). Unlike themselves, the apostles had received no formal theological or rabbinical training but the apostles still spoke boldly before the highest Jewish officials. The Sanhedrin also realized that the men "had been with Jesus" and perhaps recognized they were among His closest disciples (4:13). No doubt the religious leaders had presumed the threat Jesus presented to their authority had passed. But now the Sanhedrin was confronted not only with the apostles' teaching of salvation in Jesus' name but also with the miracle which had been done in Jesus' name. The man who had been healed was standing in their presence (4:14). (Whether he had been jailed with the apostles or only present as a witness is not known.)

The Sanhedrin spoke among themselves and tried to decide how best to stop the spread of Jesus' name. They realized that they could not act openly against the apostles because so many people knew about the miracle and had glorified God because of it (4:21). Instead, they decided to severely threaten Peter and John and warn them "to speak to no man in this name" (4:17–18). When Peter and John expressed their commitment to obey God instead of men (4:19–20), the Sanhedrin simply repeated there threats and let the apostles go (4:21,23).

Exaltation of Jesus' Name (Acts 4:23-31)

After being released, Peter and John returned to "their own," a group which was not limited to but definitely included the other apostles. After hearing about what had happened to Peter and John, those present joined in prayer that Christ's name would continue to be exalted. Their prayer began with praise to the sovereign God who had prophesied through David that the Christ would be opposed by the "kings of the earth" and the "rulers" (Acts 4:23-26) The same God who had made the earth was in control when "both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel" gathered in opposition against Jesus (4:27). Their prayer affirmed that the rulers "gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before hand" (4:27-28). Just as God had predestined the violence against Jesus, He had also predestined the current threats against His witnesses. Resting in God's sovereignty, the group petitioned God for continued boldness in preaching His Word and that more miracles would be done in Jesus' name (4:29-30). Even though the name of Jesus had drawn persecution, the believers were committed to exalting His name, both through their message and through miracles.

As soon as they had finished praying, God answered their prayer. Those present knew their prayer had been answered when "the place where they were assembled together was shaken" (Acts 4:31). After each of them was filled with the Holy Spirit, "they spoke the word of God with boldness" (4:31). Those filled with the Spirit continued to exalt the name of Jesus.

Conclusion

Although saints no longer do miracles in the name of Jesus, God himself continues to do miracles when He brings rebellious men to repentance and submission to the name of Jesus. Despite popular ideas that man can be saved without submitting themselves to Christ, the name of Jesus is still the only name under heaven given men by which they must be saved. Those who have experienced salvation in Jesus' name should follow the apostles' example by being Spirit-filled and proclaiming with boldness the name of Jesus.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth." — Psalm 78:1

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Where were the apostles waiting on the day of Pentecost? They were waiting in Jerusalem as Jesus had told them to do.

What did the people hear? They heard a noise that sounded like a rushing wind.

What did they see? They saw things that looked like flames above the people.

What did the apostles begin to do? They began to speak in different languages.

What did the people think about this? Some people thought they had been drinking alcohol.

What did Peter say to the people? He told them that they were not drunk but explained what was happening. He told them about Jesus.

What did the people think? Many people trusted in Jesus to save them from the punishment of their sins.

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What's in a Name

The name of Christ Jesus is the most important part of today's lesson. His name after all is one of power and authority, as is evident in both the miracle of the beggar and Peter's sermon. Only through the name of Jesus could the beggar have been healed before those in the temple, and only through His name can man be forgiven of their sin. Peter was quick to point out this out. There is no other name that has this type of authority and power. Because He is supreme above all, one day every person will bow in submission and adoration before the name of Jesus Christ. To illustrate this discuss with the students how powerful a name can be. Give an example of a child telling another child that his dad said to do something. Explain that since Jesus is God His name was all powerful even over everything in creation.



Guess Who

Write down the name of one of the students in the class on a piece of paper without letting the rest of the class see the name. The object of the game will be for the teacher to begin describing the classmate whose name is on the piece of paper (i.e., what color are they wearing, are they quiet or loud, an artist or athlete, boy or girl, etc.). As the student begins to describe the person whose name is on the piece of paper, the rest of the class will try to guess which classmate is being described. The point of the game is to illustrate the importance of a name. Explain to the class how we are able to think of a lot of things about a person, even when we just see their name written down. Well in today's lesson we learned that name of Jesus means a lot. In His name is all power and authority work miracles and provide salvation.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done." -Psalm 78:4

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Many people were saved after Peter's spoke at Pentecost. They were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, which they did as a way to tell everybody that they were depending on Jesus for their salvation and that they had been forgiven for their sins. The church was growing, and they were out telling other people about the salvation offered through Jesus.

Peter and John went to the temple one afternoon and on their way a lame man called out to them. He was sitting by one of the temple's gates, called Beautiful, and he asked them for money. He had been unable to walk his whole life. His friends carried him to the temple everyday so he could beg people for money. Peter looked at him and told him that he didn't have any money to give him, but he would give him something else instead. Peter then said to the man, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk" (1:6). He took the man's hand, and immediately the man stood up and walked and jumped, and praised the Lord. The man had never walked in his whole life, and He knew that only God could be responsible for such a miracle, so he praised God and went to tell others what had happened to him.

This miracle had gathered a big crowd. People were amazed at what they had seen. Every day when they came to the temple, they saw this man lying by the gate begging for money, and suddenly he was walking and jumping around! Peter used the opportunity to preach to the crowd. They had all been staring with wonder at Peter and John, but Peter told them that they had not performed the miracle in their own power. There was nothing special about them that made it possible for them to heal the man. Before telling the crowd where his power had come from, he told them about how God had glorified and raised Jesus from the dead. Peter reminded the crowd that they had taken Jesus, who God had sent, and wanted Him to be crucified. Then he told them that the power to heal the beggar had come from Jesus, the Jesus they were guilty of killing. Peter told them that repentance was possible, that if they turned from their sins, God would forgive them. He also told them about what happens to those people who repent, like Jesus some day coming again and being their King on earth. The people in the crowd were Jewish. Peter told them that Jesus was the promised Messiah that they had been waiting for. He asked them not to be left out of the blessing God had given to them in Jesus Christ by not repenting. When the people heard these words they were sad because of what they had done and many of them believed in Jesus and were saved.

While Peter and John were preaching, the religious leaders in the temple began to worry. They thought they had gotten rid of the problem of Jesus when they had him crucified, but here were his followers preaching about him again, and they had even performed a great miracle by healing a man. They decided to have Peter and John

arrested, and they put them in jail overnight. They were afraid of the influence that they would have over the people, and were offended that they were preaching that Jesus had been raised from the dead. They did not want the people to believe that.

After their night in jail, Peter and John were brought out before the religious leaders to be asked questions about their healing the beggar. They asked Peter and John, "By what power or by what name have you done this?" (4:7) (In other words, they were asking where did you get the power to do this healing?) Just as Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit showed the apostles how to answer the question. Peter answered, "by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...by Him this man stands here before you whole" (4:9-10) He went on to preach a sermon to them about Jesus death and resurrection, and told them that the only way that they could be saved, the only way that they would spend eternity with God in heaven was through submission to Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection.

The leaders talked about what Peter and John had said. They did not submit to the name of Jesus, and were trying to figure out a way to stop Peter and John from preaching this message. They knew that they could not punish them because the crowds were very large and would become angry if they punished the men who healed the beggar. They decided to threaten them instead. They told them that they were not to speak about Jesus to anyone else. Peter and John told them that they would not stop preaching about Jesus, but the leaders did not know what else to do, so they warned them again, and let them go.

Peter and John returned to their friends and told them all that had happened. They all prayed together that Jesus' name would continue to be exalted, and they asked God to give them boldness in preaching His Word and that He would perform more miracles through them that more people might believe and repent. As soon as they finished praying, they knew that God would give them what they had asked for because the room began to shake as they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They went out and spoke the Word of God with courage and boldness.

The Holy Spirit doesn't do miracles through Christians anymore, but He does live within every person who has repented of their sin and submitted their life to Jesus Christ. To those people, He still gives the ability to tell other people about Jesus Christ with boldness.

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Lesson Questions

Who was going to the temple in today's lesson? *Peter and John*

Who did Peter and John meet as they were going through the gate called Beautiful?

There was a man who could not walk. He asked Peter and John for money.

What did Peter tell him? He said that they had no money but what he did have he would give to him.

What was it that Peter gave to the man? Peter said in Jesus' name for the man to stand, and his legs became strong and he stood.

What did Peter say to the crowd? He told the people about Jesus' life and death and that it was by Jesus that this man became well.

What did the religious leaders do? They arrested Peter and John then questioned them the next day.

About how many people believed after Peter spoke. *5,000 men*

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



The Teacher Said So...

The following skit shows the power that a name can possess. A student is playing on the playground when he begins to throw rocks at another student. The teacher observes what is going on and then instructs another classmate to go and tell the student to stop throwing rocks, since this is against the rules. The student with the new message goes out onto the playground and says that the teacher (Mrs.

_____) says to stop throwing rocks. Illustrate to the class why the disobedient student should listen to his classmate and quit throwing rocks. The disobedient student should listen not because his classmate said so, for they are equal, but because the teacher (Mrs. _____) said so. He should listen to his classmate because he comes in the authority of His teacher. He comes in the teacher's name.



Boldness to Witness

Pose a skit to demonstrate courage in sharing the gospel. In the skit, a student begins to share the gospel with one of his friends but is very shy and fearful. Afraid of what his friend might think the student is unable to finish sharing the truth about Christ. Yet the friends salvation is at stake. If he does not hear about Christ he will go to hell. Knowing this, the fearful student stops and prays, asking God for boldness to share the gospel. Once having prayed, the student receives boldness from the Lord and is able to finish sharing Christ with his friend. This would be a great opportunity to share the gospel with the student yet again, and to demonstrate similar way believers prayed for boldness in today's lesson.

Praise and Worship

I Lift My Eyes Up Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



The Name to Proclaim

Hello all, I'm glad you came (wave to children)

Today we'll learn about a name, (point to temple)

A name we're boldly to proclaim, (hold hands at sides of mouth)

To share with others without shame. (move hands forward and out)

It saves the sinner, heals the lame. (fold hands and bow head, then run in place)

It is not to be used in vain. (move one finger back and forth)

What's the name above all names? (hold hands palms up)

It's Jesus, death he overcame! (point up)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." -Psalm 78:7

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



"The Name of Jesus"

Materials: Photocopies of the Jesus pattern on cardstock, paint

Directions: Instruct the students to decorate the name of Jesus using paints. A small portion of water base paint is put on the various letters and the students color in the individual letters with their fingers.



Leaping Man Marionette

Materials: simple cut-outs of a head, arms, legs, body, and rectangle for each student, four brads per student, yarn,

Directions: Have students decorate the face, body, arms, and legs. Attach the arms and legs to the body with brads loosely. (Make sure the arms and legs can turn easily.) Lay puppet face down with arms down and feet up. Lay the rectangle above puppet. Tape yarn from the back of the head to the center of the rectangle (approx 5 inches). Tape the yarn from each hand to the bottom of the rectangle (approx 9 inches). Tape the yarn from each foot to the higher marks on the rectangle (approx 16 inches). Turn rectangle card over and tape a six-inch piece of yarn across to make a handle. Slide hand into handle and try to operate marionette. Adjust yarn accordingly.



"The Name Game"

Materials: copies of "The Name Game" craft page, crayons, a coin, and something to represent a token

Directions: Pass out a craft page to each student. Allow them to decorate the game

then read the directions and play the game. When the game is complete, read the Bible verse, Acts 4:12, and talk about what it means.



Jesus' Name Bookmark

Have each child can make one bookmark using a variety of materials. On one side, have the children decorate the name Jesus. On the other side, have them glue on or write the Bible verse, Acts 4:12.

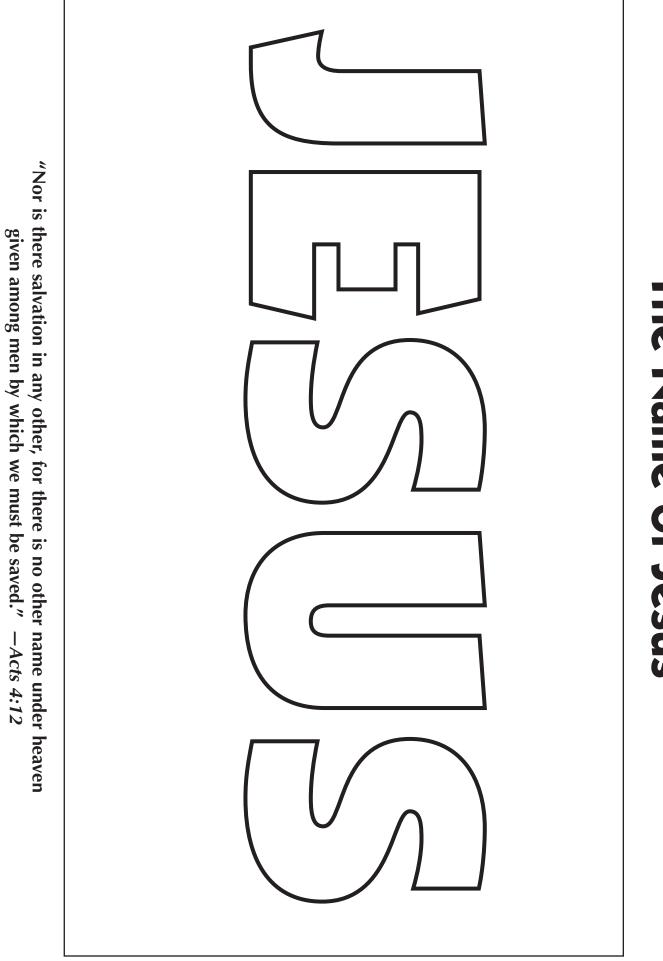
Coloring Pages

Give each student a copy of the coloring pages from the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.

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MEMORY VERSE

"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." -Acts 4:12



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Salvation		"Nor is other	Peter	Place your token at lands on "t
lion		there salvat r name und	Mary	the start. Flip a coinails." Cross out the
Only Jesus leads to		ere salvation in any other, for th ame under heaven given amor by which we must be saved."	Stephen	The Name Gan a coin. Move one space if the coin lanc ut the name on the space if it is not the I
Ben	2 2 2	"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men	Anna	The Name Game Place your token at the start. Flip a coin. Move one space if the coin lands on "heads" or two spaces if the coin lands on "tails." Cross out the name on the space if it is not the name by which we are saved.
Sarah		iere is no g men	James	n "heads" or two si ne by which we are
Daniel	Rachel	John	Rebecca	paces if the coin 2 saved.

