

take a stand

introduction

Start today's study on Acts 3:1-8 and 4:8-17 by asking someone to give a brief (two to three minutes) testimony about reaching students for Christ. Ask the student in advance so he/she can prepare something appropriate. The person may include his/her own testimony explaining how he accepted Christ as Savior.

message

1. Peter clearly stated his beliefs when he said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you" (Acts 3:6, NIV). He was not ashamed of the person who had changed his life. Peer pressure was not as important as his relationship with Jesus Christ. Peter could have said nothing to the lame man, passing him by. He could have asked someone else to say something. Instead, he made a statement, the lame man was healed and God was glorified.
2. When approached by the rulers, elders and teachers of the law, Peter took a stand for the values of Christ (Acts 4:8-12). Earlier these men had put Peter and John in jail because they proclaimed Jesus Christ as Lord. The healing in Acts 3 had also created quite a stir. Now before all of them, including other leading authorities in Jerusalem, they were asked in Acts 4:7, "By what power or what name did you do this?"
3. The Bible says that something came over Peter. "Filled with the Holy Spirit" implies that he began to speak with words not his own, but rather with words inspired by the Holy Spirit. It must have been quite a moment. He first made a statement and then took a stand for what he really believed. Though he was jailed, he didn't back down. He took a stand for Jesus Christ. (Read Acts 4:8-12.)

salvation appeal

Sometimes we find ourselves in circumstances much like Peter's. The pressures of school are tremendous. We hear conflicting messages all the time. The pressure never lets up. Jesus wants to help. He can give you power to stand up to the crowd just like He did for Peter. Come to Him today—with all your fears, hang-ups, and pressures. He will give you something much greater than silver or gold.

challenge

God wants you and me to be the salt and light of the world. When Peter spoke, a lame man was healed, a whole town was amazed at what happened and the message Jesus Christ was preached with power. One person made a difference. What about you? Will you take a stand? You probably already know the people in your school who are injured by life. You can offer your friends the same thing Peter offered the lame man in Acts 3—Jesus Christ.

