**1. Motivate**

What is something you own that has been refurbished or restored?

* antique chair
* an antique car
* bought a “refurbished” computer on eBay or Woot
* China cupboard

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/6dtj4h3r> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/4khry2j7>

* boat
* chest of drawers
* coffee table
* the house itself
* a painting
* some hand tools belonging to a parent or grandparent
* a sewing machine

**2. Transition**

Actually our lives sometimes need to be restored – physically or even spiritually.

* Through Jesus WE can be forgiven and restored to the purpose for which God created us.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Restoration Comes through Jesus

Listen for an accusation.

Acts 3:14-18 (NIV) You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. 17 "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.

What is the significance of Peter referring to Jesus as the “Holy and Righteous One”?

* Jesus was totally God and at the same time totally man
* Jesus never sinned – totally righteous – always did the “right” thing
* “holy” speaks to the fact that Jesus was totally unique, different from us
* one of the ways He was holy/unique was that He was sinless – born and lived sinless

How does the title of “Holy and Righteous One” contrast with the way the people treated Him? What indictment did Peter bring against the people?

* “disowned”(rejected) the Holy and Righteous One - Jesus
* they had Jesus crucified
* they traded his life for that of a murderer
* they killed the author of life
* they (and Jewish leadership) did so in ignorance

What proves that what they did, heinous as it was, was not the end?

* but … God raised Him from the dead
* Peter and others were witnesses of this

To what and whom did Peter attribute the healing of the lame beggar?

* it is faith in the power and authority (the Name) of the risen Jesus that has healed this man
* it wasn’t through anything Peter and John could do … it was God’s power at work

According to Peter, why did the people act as they did? Why was ignorance not an excuse?

* God has fulfilled what had already been foretold
* messages of the Old Testament prophets spoke to this reality
* they should have known from what they had been told many times throughout the years
* they (including the disciples) didn’t see it (Him, Jesus) coming
* including the suffering death of Jesus – see Isaiah 53

Where do you see evidence in our culture that people need restoration?

* families in chaos, turmoil, disarray
* people in slavery to substance abuse
* gender confusion
* corruption in business, politics, legal proceedings
* wars, fighting in various places around the world
* human trafficking
* materialism

Besides physical issues, in what other ways do individuals need healing and restoration?

* failure in relationships
* addictions – physical, emotional
* young people leaving the church
* inability to cope with life

3.2 Repentance Leads to Forgiveness

Why do men tend not to look at a map or ask someone who might know the way?

* we think we can handle it on our own
* to ask for help is to admit we don’t know, we are inadequate

Listen for how Peter’s preaching can act as a life road map.

Acts 3:19-21 (NIV) Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you--even Jesus. 21 He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Peter previously noted how the people acted in ignorance. How are these remarks like a spiritual roadmap?

* solves the problem of our acting in ignorance
* gets us turned around and heading in the right direction spiritually
* we repent ⇨ turn away from the wrong thing … turn towards God

What kinds of inadequate ways do people in our culture try to find direction for life?

* go to the internet

Contrast all of these with what this passage calls for …

*Repent* … which is to change your mind, heart, and actions

* go to YouTube
* TV talk shows
* yoga, meditation
* self-help books

What is the result of repenting according to this passage?

* sins wiped out
* times of refreshing come from the Lord
* God sends the Christ, appointed for you, Jesus
* God will restore everything in the meantime (until Christ’s return)

How is having sins forgiven like “seasons/times of refreshing?”

* renewal
* relief from the guilt of sin
* relief from the power of sin controlling our lives
* a fresh start in life … being made a new creation

How would you counsel a person who wants forgiveness?

* they must agree that what they have done to cause offense (against God or against anyone) was *wrong*
* they must reject their attitude or action as inappropriate and demonstrate a desire and determination to do what is right, what is appropriate
* they must express their faith to God that He has forgiven them, and receive that forgiveness
* If appropriate, they may need to ask forgiveness of a person they have wronged (realizing that, unlike God, the person may or may not forgive them)

3.3 Victory over Evil through Jesus

Listen for a warning.

Acts 3:22-26 (NIV) For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. 23 Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.' 24 "Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. 25 And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' 26 When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

What is the consequence of refusing to be attentive to the message of the Christ?

* cut off from God’s people
* there will be a disconnect from believers
* one might be in the same family or same group at work, but just be separate in life goals, motivations, attitudes
* not able to handle life
* “can’t get no satisfaction” (Rolling Stones)

What suggests that the word from God is constant and consistent?

* prophets foretold coming of Messiah
* God’s promises about “Son of David”
* Jesus fulfilled many prophecies
* God’s covenants were kept by God (often broken by men)
* promise to Abraham – all people of earth blessed by his descendant

What does God desire His people to be and do?

* listen to what He says
* turn from sin, turn to God
* confess (agree with God) concerning your sin
* receive by faith God’s provision of forgiveness –
* believe in what Jesus has done – taken upon Himself your sin

What are two ways the word “raised” in verses 22 and 26 can be understood?

* God brought Jesus onto the scene
* God, in the person of Jesus, entered into time and space
* God raised the crucified Jesus from the grave, from death to life

Why are both crucial to the redemptive plan of God to restore sinners to wholeness?

* Jesus came as a human (totally God, total man)
* He lived a perfect life – did not sin in any way
* He was the perfect sacrifice – He took the death sentence for OUR sin
* He died in our place – in a sense our death sentence was carried out upon Him
* He was raised to life – we are “placed” in that resurrection also – to new life

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Repent.

* Restoration begins by coming to Christ in repentance and faith.
* If you’ve never made a commitment of your life to Christ, you can do so now.
* Talk to someone in your Bible study group about your desire to follow Christ.

Refresh.

* Even as a Christian, life can be challenging. Thankfully, you’re not alone.
* Spend some focused and unhurried time with Jesus by praying and reading His Word.
* Let His Spirit wash over you to keep you strong.

Restore.

* Let others see Jesus in you as you live out a renewed and restored purpose.
* You can’t restore others to their purpose in Christ, but you can be a testimony to them of how Christ restores.
* Be ready to tell your story to all who are willing to hear.



Crossword Puzzle
Words and Clues taken from Acts 3:14 – 26 (NIV)
Help available at <https://tinyurl.com/4khry2j7>