

Junior High Religion week of May 11

Read the scene below and answer the following questions with a paragraph of at least four sentences. Send your answers to aboss@stantschool.org

Peter and John in Prison

When the priests and Sadducees heard Peter and John preaching that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead, they were very disturbed. They had paid the Roman soldiers to keep quiet about this. Now here were Peter and John telling it publicly. "This teaching must be stopped!" the rulers cried. Until they could decide what to do, they had Peter and John put in prison.

The next day Peter and John were brought before the same chief priests and rulers who had tried Jesus. These men began questioning Peter and John by asking, "By what power or in what name did you do this miracle?"

Peter was not afraid to answer. "By the power of the Holy Spirit," he said boldly. Then he asked the rulers, "Are we being tried because this crippled man has been healed? I declare to you that this man was healed in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified and God raised from the dead."

The rulers looked on in amazement. They saw the man who had been crippled standing with Peter and John. His face beamed with joy and happiness.

Because the chief priests and rulers did not know what to do, they sent Peter and John out while they discussed the matter. "This is a great miracle they have done, and all the people of Jerusalem know about it. We cannot deny it. But let us make sure this teaching does not spread among the people. We can threaten Peter and John so they will not speak to anyone in the name of Jesus again."

The prisoners were led back and commanded to teach no more in the name of Jesus, but Peter and John would not promise to obey. They said, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right for us to obey you rather than God. We cannot keep from telling people about the wonderful things we have seen and heard."

Before letting the two go, the rulers threatened to punish them severely if they were caught teaching in Jesus' name.

At once Peter and John went to their friends and told them what had happened. Together they prayed, "Lord, you are God. You have made heaven and earth and the sea and all that is in them. The rulers gathered against your Son, Jesus. Now, Lord, they have threatened us. Grant us boldness that we may speak thy word. Give us thy power to heal and do wonders in the name of Jesus."

And the place where they met was shaken. Again the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

1. When Jesus was resurrected it was such powerful news that rulers felt threatened and didn't want anyone to know about it. But Peter and John knew that God wanted people to know. Even going to prison wouldn't stop them from talking.
Write a note of thanks to Peter, John, or any person who speaks about God, for being willing and able to inform people, including us, about what happened after Jesus died.
2. When Peter and John got out of prison, and went to pray with their friends for the boldness to speak of God, they felt the ground shake. Think of someone you could go to pray with. This is a special type of relationship which includes openness and honesty. What are some ways you can form and maintain this kind of friendship?
3. I missed seeing you this quarter, and wish you the best now and always!
4. Keep on praying, reading and learning about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit this summer. They are your personal teachers!