

# THE PASTOR'S *ESSENTIALS*®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

<sup>13</sup> "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. <sup>14</sup> BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.  
MATTHEW 7:13-14

**es-sen-tials** (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

## *Acts of the Apostles* A BIBLE STUDY

### SESSION THREE

*Acts 2:42-4:31*

#### *Questions for Session Three*

1. Describe the situation/scene in vv. 42-47. How many responses to God's love for us can you find embedded in the description of the early Church? Identify each one.
2. How did God bless this early Christian movement (v. 47b) as the people responded to God's love in so many ways? What kind of response do you suppose the local church in the twenty-first century would get from God for this kind of behavior?
3. What is the significance of the time of day (v. 3:1) that Peter and John went up to the temple to pray? Could we set our clocks by this? How many would show up in our local churches if the doors were open for prayer at 3:00 p.m. each day?

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4. What was Peter's command to the beggar at the temple gate? How did he respond and what was Peter able to give to him? What can we give persons outside our gates living on the edge of society? How can we offer healing to them?
  
5. Referring to v. 12b, to whom did Peter give the credit for the beggar's healing? How many ways can we glorify God through the same kinds of activities in our lives?
  
6. In vv. 14-18 Peter (1) acknowledges what happened to Jesus, (2) how the events unfolded, and (3) what was accomplished through all this. Please explain.
  
7. Peter orders persons present to do something, and then he refers to the end times in vv. 20-21. What does he expect, and to which prophets does he refer (vv. 22-25)?
  
8. Why were Peter and John arrested? How large had the early church grown? What was their defense? What was the outcome of their arrest?

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9. In their attempt to stop the spread of the early Church the Sanhedrin took what action? What did the Sanhedrin command Peter and John to stop doing, and what troubled the Sanhedrin about all this?
10. What was the reaction of the early Jerusalem Church upon the release of Peter and John? What was the prayer of the people? To whom did the people of the early Church give the glory? Whom do we recognize, and to whom do we give the glory in our churches today?

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