

# HOW IT STARTED

# HOW IT'S GOING

## WEEK 3 - HEALING BEGINS AND OPPOSITION GROWS

### OVERVIEW

With the Holy Spirit empowering them, the apostles began to perform healing miracles in Jesus' name, bringing even more attention to this early Jesus movement. However, this hopeful and powerful sign of God's work was seen as dangerous and threatening to Israel's religious leaders. Just as Jesus experienced many times, **the in-breaking kingdom of God is often at odds with the powers of religion**, which so often attempt to overpower it. It raises an important question: are we as a Church just going through the religious motions, or are we being swept along by the rule-breaking, life-giving Spirit of God?

*The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures.*

Acts 4:13

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever experienced a religious event that seemed more like a show, like Amy's story of the televangelist? How did that make you feel?
2. Read **Luke 9:1-2**. Jesus gives the disciples power and authority and sends them to tell people about the kingdom of God and heal the sick. Why both?
3. In **Acts 3:1-6**, the man asks for money, but Peter and John heal him instead. How did they know what to do?
4. If you knew that you could heal someone in Jesus' name, would it make it easier to tell people about Jesus? Why?
5. Would you face persecution today if you were healing people in the name of Jesus? How?
6. What is stopping people from healing the broken places of the world through the power of the Holy Spirit?
7. What is your reaction to Amy's story about people from Grace delivering a man from demons? What would you have done if you were there?
8. Are we as a Church just going through the religious motions, or are we being swept along by the rule-breaking, life-giving Spirit of God?

### RESOURCES

[gracechurch.us](http://gracechurch.us)