

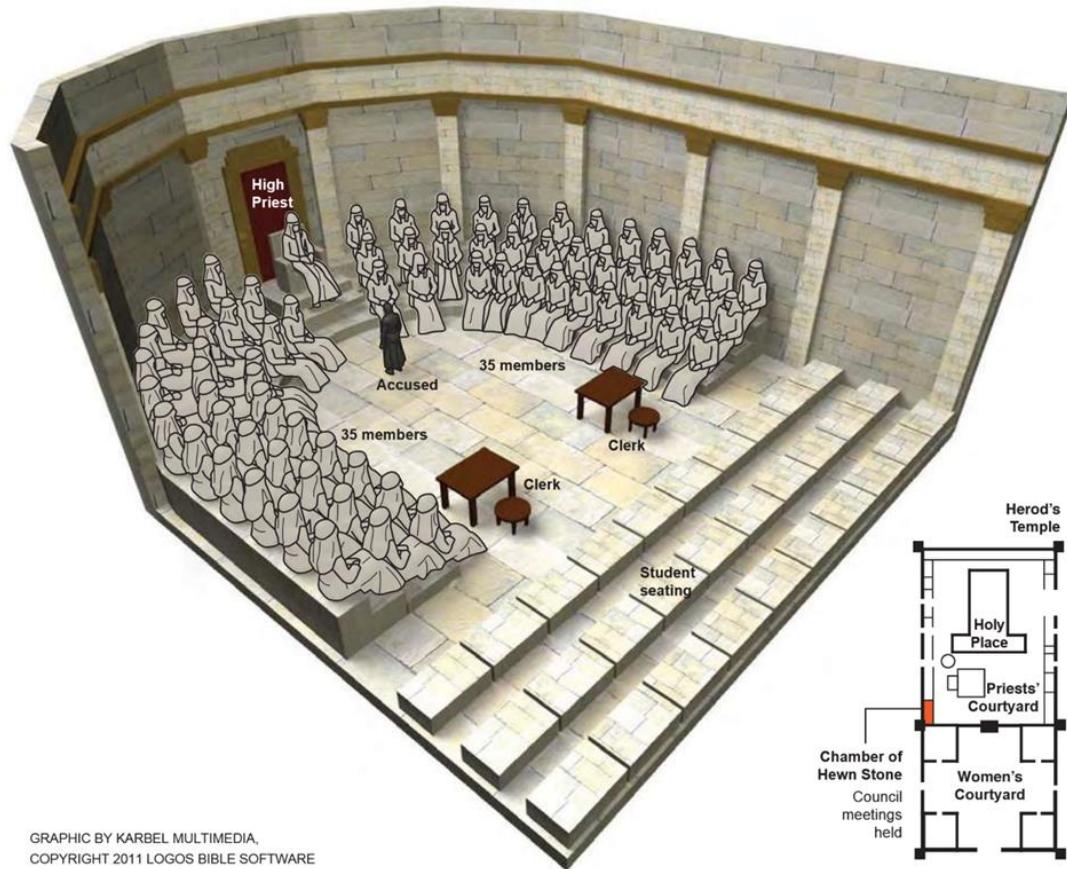
Monday

Read Acts 3:11-4:4 (you're going to be an expert on these passages!)

How would you feel if you were the person in black in that illustration... the accused?
What would you try to draw upon to help you? How would you do it?

The Sanhedrin

The Jewish high court of justice consisted of 71 men and was led by the high priest. The council could decide almost any fate of its people—except the death penalty, which was decided by the Romans. The court was located within the Chamber of Hewn Stone inside Herod's Temple.



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Tuesday

Read Ephesians 4:25-27

Think about times you have been hauled before a powerful authority: your parents, your teachers, your boss, a court... your spouse. You are being accused of something and it is something you did. You have many responses available to you, just like Peter and John do. You could deny that you did it – you could lie through your teeth. You could blame others. You could say that the accusation is incorrect or gets certain elements wrong. You could kind of admit you did it, but it wasn't your fault because you didn't mean to do it. You could try to deflect by bringing up all the horrible things that other people or that your accusers do. You could admit it and be defiant. You could beg for forgiveness. Of course, you could always tell the plain truth. We all know how we should respond, but how do you normally respond (be honest!)? What are the reasons you tend to respond in those ways?

Wednesday

Read Acts 4:1-22

Peter says in v. 12, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." Just as the name of Jesus had been the only hope for physical healing of the man crippled from birth, so also the name of Jesus is the only hope for the spiritual healing of mankind. The phrase "name of Jesus" means the fullness of Jesus, the power of Jesus, the identity of Jesus; the fully human, fully divine, Son of God, Messiah, Jesus Christ. Verse 12 teaches us that if you want to be whole, if you want to be right before God, if you want to come to the fullness of who you were created to be that you are going to need to go to Jesus. There is no one else to call upon for this salvation. Accept and have rest in the salvation of Jesus today!

Thursday

Read Luke 21:12–15

If you believe that Jesus is alive and active in this world, like Peter and John do, then Jesus does not need you to speak for him. Jesus needs you to allow him to speak through you with the whole of your life: your words, actions, attitudes, and ways of being. What is an upcoming opportunity for you to practice letting Jesus speak instead of speaking for him?

Friday

Please read Acts

Please read Acts 4:23-31 in preparation for Sunday worship.

