

LESSON 4

PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Be Bold

SCRIPTURE: Acts 3–4

GOD'S BIG STORY: God works miraculously through Peter and John, healing a man who couldn't walk. After hearing about the miracle, the Jewish authorities question Peter and John, who respond with boldness!

WORD OF WONDER: The Holy Spirit gives us power. —from Acts 1:8

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Peter and John were two of Jesus' disciples, and they had been with Jesus and seen Him heal many people. The high priests who questioned them oversaw the temple and had rejected Jesus as God's Messiah.

WHAT?

The man who was unable to walk had a congenital disease which prevented him from earning a living, and thus, begging was his only way to survive. By healing him through Peter and John, God performed a miracle that was impossible to ignore.

WHERE?

The temple was in the city of Jerusalem. It had inner and outer gates. Many people passed by these gates, and by begging near a gate, the man who couldn't walk became known to those who passed on their way to pray.

WHEN?

This story occurs after the events of Pentecost, when God first sent His Spirit to fill the followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. Peter was confident and acted boldly because he saw that God was growing the fellowship of early Christians and empowering them to spread the gospel.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

For centuries, Jews worshiped God in the Jerusalem temple, rebuilt when the Jewish exiles returned from Babylon (Ezra 1–6). Peter and John, faithful Jews, continued praying there, knowing Jesus was the promised Messiah. They shared this good news with everyone they met!

Activity: Scary or Not?

Ahead of time, print a copy of the Toddler Scary or Not Sheet and cut on the dotted lines.



Welcome to church! Today we're going to learn that God can help us be brave and bold even when things are scary. Let's practice showing our brave pose with strong arms. Demonstrate a strong, brave pose by flexing your arm muscles, and have the kids practice this with you. **In a moment, I'm going to show you a picture. If you think it's something scary, show your strong, brave arms!**

Show the kids each picture and ask if it's something scary. If it is, invite them to respond to it with their brave, strong arms

- Holding a bug
- Riding on a swing
- Going down a big slide on the playground
- Hearing thunder outside
- Petting a cat or dog
- Going into a room that's dark

We all have times when something feels scary. In those times, we need to be bold or brave. We don't have to be bold on our own though. When we follow Jesus, He gives us His Spirit—the Holy Spirit—to help us be bold!

Activity: Share the Message

In God's big story today, we're going to learn about two people who were very brave and told other people about Jesus. But sometimes it can be scary to tell people about Jesus. We're going to practice telling someone else about Jesus, but at first, we're just going to whisper.

Invite each kid to whisper into someone's ear, "Jesus loves you." Do this a few times, making sure each kid has a turn to whisper into someone's ear. If younger kids struggle with words, they can just say, "Jesus."

Good job, everyone! Now, even though things are scary sometimes, God can help us be brave! We're going to try that again. But this time, we're going to tell someone about Jesus in a loud, brave, bold voice! Don't use a super loud voice when you're talking right into someone's ear though. Demonstrate a louder voice as you say this. Be sure to model the volume you want the kids to use.

Help kids tell someone else in a loud, bold voice, "Jesus loves you!" or "Jesus!" **Being bold means being brave and strong. We'll learn today about how the Holy Spirit helps us be bold.**

Our Wonder Truth today is: **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BE BOLD.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—*Point up.*

HELPS US—*Squat down to the ground, touching it and raise hands up as you stand up.*

BE BOLD—*End with hands up over your head and jump up.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. When I say, "share," you can put your hands up to your mouth like you're shouting something to someone. When I say, "bold," you can stand up straight like you aren't afraid of anything. Let's practice! Say the words "share" and "bold" several times, showing kids which motions to do.

God, thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to help us be bold (stand up straight) so we can share (hands to your mouth) Your good news. Help us be bold (stand up straight) and to share (hands to your mouth) about Jesus with people around us and with people we don't know. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: When we follow Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit in us and with us! May you always trust in the Holy Spirit to help you speak the truth, do the right thing, and trust God. May the Holy Spirit help you be bold!

Activity: Here, There, and Everywhere!

Ahead of time, use painter's tape to mark three separate lines on the floor, as far apart in the room as you can make them.

In today's story, the Holy Spirit helped Peter and John be bold when they told people about Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us be bold and brave so we can tell people God's message that He loves them. That means we can share the message with people near us, far from us, or really, really far from us!

We're going to practice sharing about Jesus in different places. Have kids line up along a wall. Show kids three lines of tape on the floor.

Invite kids to practice being bold at each line. They can say, "Jesus loves you!" at each stop. For younger kids, they can try to just say "Jesus!" Begin at the line closest to you, and then move to the one farther away, and then the line really far away. Repeat as long as the kids are engaged.