

SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BE BOLD



WORD OF WONDER:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

- Acts 1:8

GOD'S BIG STORY:

Peter and John
Before the Sanhedrin
(Acts 3:1-8, 4:5-10, 13-14)

POST-LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

- What did the man who couldn't walk ask Peter and John to give him? (*money*)
- What did Peter and John give the man instead? How were they able to do that? (*They gave him the ability to walk—or really, God did! Peter and John were able to do this through the power and name of Jesus.*)
- What did the man who was healed do when he first got to his feet? (*He walked, jumped, and shouted praises to God.*)
- If you were the man who was just healed, what is the first thing you would do?
- What did many people do when Peter told them that the man was healed through the power of Jesus? (*They believed in Jesus and became His followers.*)
- What has God done in your life that makes you want to praise Him boldly?

Welcome Question

- **What does it mean to be bold? When have you acted boldly?**
Then invite several kids to the front of the room to share their answers with everyone—that will require them to be bold!
- **To be bold is to be confident, to have courage, and to be willing to take risks! Today we're going to learn about how the Holy Spirit helped two of Jesus' followers to be bold in a very hard situation.**

Curiosity Questions

- When you think of bold colors, what colors come to mind? Why?
- What are some ways somebody might stand out in a big crowd?

Curiosity Activity: Which Is Bolder?

- Ahead of time, write a large “A” with a marker on one sheet of paper and a large “B” on another. Tape the two sheets to the wall on opposite ends of the room.
- **The word bold can describe a lot of different things. There are bold colors, bold music, and even bold-tasting food! Let’s do an activity to help us think more about what it means for something to be bold.**
- Show kids the A and B signs. Explain that they will look at different pictures. Their job is to choose which they think is bolder—A or B—and move to the matching sign.
- Show the first Which Is Bolder? Sheet. Invite kids to decide which image they think is bolder and move to the A or B sign. Once everyone has moved, invite 1–2 kids to explain why they chose that image.
- Gather the kids back in the center of the room. Continue to advance through all nine Which Is Bolder? Sheets, pausing after each for kids to move to the A or B sign, then giving kids a chance to explain their choices.
- Gather all the kids together. **Great job! Sometimes we associate bright colors or loud sounds with boldness. But as followers of Jesus, being bold doesn’t mean wearing the most colorful clothes or shouting the loudest. As followers of Jesus, being bold can mean speaking the truth even when it’s hard, doing the right thing even when other people don’t, and trusting God.**
- **In God’s big story today, we’ll learn about two men—Peter and John— who were filled with the Holy Spirit and were bold with the Spirit’s help.**
- Today’s Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BE BOLD.**

Word of Wonder Activity

- For this activity, kids will practice the Word of Wonder by saying it into a homemade telephone made from paper cups and yarn/string. If your time, space, or supplies are limited, plan on making one telephone per small group ahead of time (or one for every two kids). Also plan on preparing the telephones ahead of time for younger kids. If you plan on having kids make the phones during the lesson, cut the string into 5’–10’ (or longer!) lengths ahead of time, one piece per two kids.
- Follow these steps to make paper cup phones:
 - Carefully poke a hole in the bottom of each cup using a sharpened pencil or thumbtack.
 - Loop each end of a long piece of string/yarn through the hole in a cup.
 - Tie knots at both ends of the string.
- **In our Word of Wonder for the Power of the Spirit series, Jesus tells His disciples they’re going to receive power to tell people everywhere about Him. The power to be bold comes from the Holy Spirit! Let’s say the verse together.** Open your Bible to Acts 1:8. Encourage kids to read Acts 1:8 several times together
- **Let’s practice boldly sharing our Word of Wonder with partners using paper cup telephones!**
- Walk kids through the steps for making a paper cup phone and have them work with partners to create paper cup phones. Or if you prepared paper cup phones ahead of time, hand them to kids now.
- Invite kids to practice saying the Word of Wonder, speaking into one cup while their partner holds the other cup to their ear. Be sure the string is stretched tight between them. Encourage partners to take turns speaking and listening.

Responding in Worship: Everywhere I Go ...

- Ahead of time, print the [Everywhere I Go Sheets](#). Using posterboards or sheets of butcher paper, make five posters. Across the top of each, write the Wonder Truth: “The Holy Spirit Helps Us Be Bold.” Tape or glue one of the five Everywhere I Go Sheets to each poster. There should be plenty of open space around the sheets for kids to draw on the posters.
- **Just like God sent His Holy Spirit to the early Jesus-followers, He promises to send His Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus and follows Him. That means that when we follow Jesus, we’re filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is with us when we brush our teeth, play with friends, and do our homework! The Holy Spirit is with us everywhere we go! Where are some places you often go? Invite kids to respond.**
- **Today we heard about how the Holy Spirit helped Peter and John to be bold. They did things they couldn’t have done without the Holy Spirit—healing a man who couldn’t walk and speaking about Jesus boldly in front of the religious leaders! The Holy Spirit helps us to be bold too! Let’s spend some time thinking about how we could be bold with the help of the Holy Spirit in places we often go.**
- Set the prepared posters out around the room. Place coloring utensils next to each poster. Point to the Everywhere I Go posters as you continue: **Five places many of you go often are school, church, your neighborhood, your home, and to activities like sports or music.** Have kids split up so that there are up to five at each poster. You can do this by numbering kids off and assigning them to a poster or by having them go to the poster of their choice.
- Once all the kids are seated by a poster, continue: **What’s one way you could be bold with the help of the Holy Spirit when you’re at that place this week? Maybe it’s by telling a friend about Jesus’ love, inviting someone new to sit with you at lunch, or speaking or singing about Jesus in front of a group of people.** Pause for kids to think quietly. **Go ahead and draw a picture on the poster of one way you could be bold in that place. As you draw, talk with God in prayer. Remember that the Holy Spirit is God, so you can ask the Holy Spirit for help and boldness. If you’re not sure what to draw, you can ask God for ideas of ways the Spirit can help you be bold.**
- Consider walking around to each kid during this time, admiring drawings and taking a moment to pray for each kid, silently or aloud.
- When most kids are finished, invite groups to hold up their posters for everyone to see. Consider taping them to the wall so everyone can see them and remember that the Holy Spirit helps us be bold!

SMALL GROUP PRAYER

After Jesus died and rose again, God sent the Holy Spirit to His followers. When we love and follow Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit too. What an amazing gift! The Holy Spirit helps us to be bold as we show others God’s love and share Jesus with them! Let’s pray and thank God for His Spirit.

Peter and John saw a man healed through the power of the Holy Spirit! Invite kids to share something they want to ask God to help them do that they know they couldn’t do on their own. (Share something from your life too!) Then encourage kids to pray, asking the Holy Spirit for the boldness and power to do those things!