

# 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.*)
- How did the religious leaders respond when they saw the man who had been healed and heard Peter and John speaking boldly? (*They were upset; they put Peter and John into prison overnight; they questioned them before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish court of law.*)
- What did Peter and John say to the religious leaders? How do you think they were able to be so bold? (*Peter told them that the power of Jesus had given the man the ability to walk. He told them about Jesus' death and resurrection and that Jesus can heal the relationship between God and people.*)
- When have you faced a situation that made you feel scared or unsure of yourself? What might it have looked like to act boldly in that situation?
- When has the Holy Spirit helped you do something you couldn't have done on your own?

## 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: Ready, Set, Respond!

- Ahead of time, print the [Response Cards](#) and cut them apart. Place the cards in a basket or container and mix them up.
- **The word bold can describe a lot of different things. 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. When we follow Jesus and walk with Him, being bold can mean speaking the truth even when it's hard, doing the right thing even when other people aren't, and trusting God. Let's play a game called Ready, Set, Respond! In this game, you'll hear different scenarios you might face, and you'll work with a partner to act out how you might respond to that situation with boldness.**
- Invite one kid to come up, pull a Response Card from the basket, and read it aloud. Encourage everyone to partner up with someone near them (groups of three are OK too!) to discuss how they would respond to that situation with boldness and to act out their responses.
- Continue through all eight Response Cards as time allows, inviting a different kid up to read each card. If time allows, invite 1–2 pairs to act out their responses to each scenario in front of the whole group.
- Here are the eight scenarios for your reference:
  - Several of your classmates at school are teasing another kid.
  - Your close friend is very sad.
  - Your friends want you to do something you know is wrong.
  - An older family member (such as a parent, grandparent, or guardian) is tired and stressed out.
  - A new kid at church or school is sitting alone.
  - A friend says they don't believe in God.
  - You did something wrong, and a teacher or parent is asking you about it.
  - You're hanging out with friends when they start saying mean things about another friend who's not there.
- **Some of those scenarios were very difficult. Have you ever experienced a hard situation that required you to respond with boldness? Invite kids to respond. When we follow Jesus and walk with Him, we don't have to be bold on our own. God promises to give us the Holy Spirit—His powerful, wise, and loving presence. That means that as Jesus-followers, the Holy Spirit—who is God—is in us and ready to help us at all times!**
- **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: The Holy Spirit with Me

- Give each kid a copy of [The Holy Spirit with Me Sheet](#). Set out coloring utensils and invite kids to spread out across the room.
- **Let's think about three things you do on a typical day. Maybe you eat breakfast, go to school, and practice the piano. Then, in boxes 1, 2, and 3 on your sheet, draw pictures of yourself doing those things. For now, leave box 4 blank.**
- **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 Spirit is with us always! To help us remember this, I invite you to add something to your three drawings: Write the letters H and S (for "Holy Spirit") on your three drawings to show that the Spirit is with you and in you as you do those things!**  
Pause for kids to add H and S to their drawings.
- **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 be bold too! In box 4 on your paper, I invite you to draw a picture of yourself acting boldly with the help of the Holy Spirit. Maybe you're 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. As you draw, remember that the Holy Spirit is with you and helps you to 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 several to share their drawings with the group by boldly coming to the front.
- **Wow! Those are some incredible drawings! You can take your drawing home with you to help you remember that as a Jesus-follower, the Holy Spirit is always with you. God has given us everything we need to live boldly and share the good news of Jesus from one end of the earth to the other!**

## 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!