

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: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other. —Acts 1:8

- PRE-SERVICE
 - Interactive Game: Ready, Set, Respond!
- Welcome Question: What does it mean to be bold?
When have you acted boldly?
- SMALL GROUP
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Take You at Your Word, You Have Overcome
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Worthy of it All
- Blessing Your Kids



INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Be Bold

SCRIPTURE: Acts 3–4

WORD OF WONDER: Acts 1:8

Please pause and read Acts 3:1–8; 4:5–10, 13–14. Yep—now. I can wait ...

Peter and John had bold down cold, didn't they? They certainly acted boldly: healing a man in Jesus' name under the nose of the high priests all but guaranteed an arrest and a beating. Or worse.

And they were equally bold in what they said. They proclaimed Jesus in the presence of the very men who'd plotted to have Jesus killed.

The disciples' courage was fueled by the Holy Spirit—that ... and having walked with Jesus.

As you prepare this lesson, you're walking with Jesus too. You're standing with Him, sharing His story, and speaking His truth into the lives of kids you serve.

So, bless you. I'm thankful for you and thankful for the Holy Spirit who's speaking to and through you as you teach.

Be bold as you lead this lesson, bold as you let this lesson's Scripture passages sink deeply into your heart and mind.

- What does bold look and sound like as you follow Jesus?
- Where would you say living boldly for Jesus crosses over into living recklessly for Him?
Or are they the same?
- If you dare, ask God for more opportunities to be bold for Him. What do you expect to happen?

—Mikal Keefer

Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 4 **FOR LEADERS**
PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

DID YOU KNOW?

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!

LESSON 4 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Be Bold

SCRIPTURE: Acts 3–4

WORD OF WONDER: Acts 1:8

As kids arrive...

20 minutes before service begins, leaders are in place ready to welcome kids.

Display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

Interactive Game: Ready, Set, Respond!

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), basket or container

RESOURCES: Response Cards (1/LG)

Ahead of time, print the Response Cards and cut them apart. Place the cards in a basket or container and mix them up.

Display the Ready, Set, Respond! Slide and gather the kids. 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

READY, SET, RESPOND! Several of your classmates at school are teasing another kid.	READY, SET, RESPOND! Your close friend is very sad.	READY, SET, RESPOND! Your friends want you to do something you know is wrong.
READY, SET, RESPOND! An older family member chucks in a parent, grandparent, or grandchild a word or question is said and stressed out.	READY, SET, RESPOND! A new kid at church or school is sitting alone.	READY, SET, RESPOND! A friend says they don't believe in God.
READY, SET, RESPOND! You did something wrong, and a teacher or parent is asking you about it.	READY, SET, RESPOND! You're hanging out with friends when they start saying mean things about another friend who's not there.	

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LESSON 4 RESPONSE CARDS
ELEMENTARY



(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.

Leader Tip: Some of these scenarios represent very difficult situations kids might face. Assure them there is no one right way to respond to them. Remind them that as Jesus-followers, being bold doesn't necessarily mean being loud, but it does always mean acting in love toward others.

Gather all the kids together. **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!** Display the Peter and John Wonder Truth Slide. **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.**

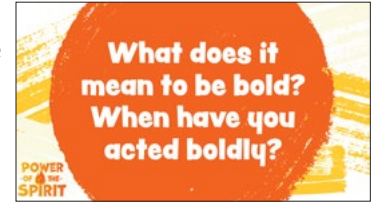


Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question. Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard. **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. But first, it's time for small group.**



Make It Inclusive: The idea of being bold may feel abstract for some kids! Help them understand the idea better by asking these questions: "Is being bold like being brave?" "Is being bold like being quiet?" "When you acted bravely, did it feel easy or hard?"

Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the Peter and John Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

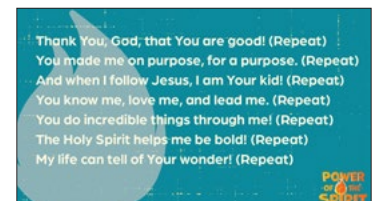
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You do incredible things through me! (Kids repeat.)

The Holy Spirit helps me be bold! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for loving us and for being here with us! Help us hear from the Holy Spirit today so that we may go and live boldly with the Spirit's help! We love you! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll hear about how the Holy Spirit helps us be bold. Let's praise God and thank Him for the Holy Spirit! Play songs [Take You at Your Word](#), [You Have Overcome](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Display the Peter and John Title Slide.

Today we are learning about a powerful moment when a man was healed in Jesus' name. As you watch, think about why Peter made it clear that the power did not come from him and what that shows about Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

[Watch the God's Big Story Video.](#)



LESSON 4 PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: costume pieces (such as robes, hats, or scarves/sashes), adhesive name tags (3), marker (prep only)

Ahead of time, write each of these names/descriptions on an adhesive name tag: Peter, John, Man who couldn't walk.

After Jesus went up into heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples, just as He had promised to do. The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence—the Holy Spirit is God! When the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they began to boldly share Jesus' message with everyone. The disciples also started doing miracles like Jesus did, amazing signs that God was at work through them. Remind me ... what does bold mean? Allow a few responses.

Leader Tip: If needed, remind kids that to be bold is to be confident, to have courage, and to be willing to take risks. 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.

I need some help telling today's part of God's big story. Choose three willing kids to come up to the stage area. Assign each a role: Peter, John, and the man who couldn't walk. Give them each a prepared name tag and a costume piece (robe, hat, or scarf/sash). Introduce each character to the audience. Then position Peter and John on one end of the stage, near the back. Position the man who couldn't walk at the other end of the stage area, closer to the audience. As you tell the story, prompt the kids on stage to act out what is happening.

One afternoon at three o'clock, Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, went into the temple. Peter and John slowly walk toward the man who couldn't walk. **The Jewish people would gather in the temple at that time of day to pray together, so it was very crowded. A man, who hadn't been able to walk since he was born, was sitting at one of the gates outside the temple. Every day, he would wait outside the temple and beg people for money to help him live. The man who couldn't walk starts begging, appealing to the audience.**

When the man saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Man asks Peter and John for money.

Peter looked straight at the man and said, "I don't have any silver or gold." Pause for Peter to repeat these words. **"But I'll give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk"** (Acts 3:6). Again, pause for Peter to repeat.

Peter, John, and the man who couldn't walk act out the next paragraph as you read it: **Peter took the man's hand and helped him up. The man felt his feet and ankles grow strong. For the first time, he could walk on his own two feet. The man went with Peter and John into the temple courts, walking and jumping and shouting praises to God.**

Everyone there (indicate the audience) **had seen this man at the gate many times before, so when they saw him on his feet, they were filled with wonder and awe! Everyone, say, “Wow!”** Audience responds with a “Wow!” **Peter told the people that it was through the power of Jesus that this man was healed, so many of them believed and became followers of Jesus too.** Peter pretends to address everyone in the audience.

The man who was just healed can stand off to the side. **The religious leaders were upset with Peter and John’s message. Because they didn’t believe that Jesus had come back to life, they didn’t like Peter and John sharing God’s story with other people. Everyone, say, “Oh, nooooo!”** Audience responds with an: “Oh, nooooo!” **The religious leaders put Peter and John into prison overnight.** As an aside to the kids playing Peter and John: **Sorry, guys.**

March Peter and John offstage, wait a beat, then bring them back to center as you continue the story. **The next day, they brought Peter and John before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish court of law. The religious leaders asked the two disciples where they got their power and authority to heal and to share Jesus’ message.**

Even though Peter and John had spent the night in prison and now stood in front of Jewish leaders in a court of law, they were very bold. With the Holy Spirit filling him, Peter bravely told the Sanhedrin that the power of Jesus had given that man the ability to walk. The Sanhedrin had rejected Jesus and supported having Him killed, but God had brought Him back to life. Peter then told them that only Jesus could bring forgiveness and heal the relationship between God and people. Peter repeats these words: “Only Jesus can heal the relationship between God and people.”

The religious leaders were amazed. Everybody, say, “Oooooo!” Audience responds with an “Oooooo!” **Peter and John’s boldness and words came from the Holy Spirit living inside of them and guiding them. The religious leaders were so impressed by Peter and John and the healing of the man that they let the disciples go. Everybody, say, “You may go!”** Audience responds with an “You may go!”

The leaders told the disciples not to tell the story of Jesus anymore. But what do you think Peter and John did? Pause for responses. **Yes! Peter and John spoke boldly again, informing the religious leaders that they would never stop sharing the story of Jesus.** Peter and John say together: “We won’t stop telling others about Jesus!”

Then Peter and John met with the rest of the disciples and told them what had happened. Peter and John can walk off stage. They all prayed together, and the Holy Spirit filled them and helped them share Jesus’ message even more boldly. When we tell God’s story to other people, the Holy Spirit helps us be bold too.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Peter and John Wonder Truth Slide. Our Wonder Truth today is **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BE BOLD**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

For hundreds of years, Jews worshiped God at the temple in Jerusalem. During the Old Testament, the first temple had been destroyed by Babylon, an enemy nation. The Jewish people eventually returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt it. Peter and John were faithful Jews who continued to pray at the temple. They knew Jesus was the promised Messiah and Savior, and they shared this good news with everyone they met!



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

Many of the people who saw and heard about the man being healed began worshiping God. Ask the next questions slowly, giving kids time to think and share their responses: **Have you ever experienced something that only God could have done? Are you waiting on God to do something that only He can do?**

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson. ***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: WORTHY OF IT ALL

Blessing Your Kids

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out 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 lean on the Holy Spirit to help you speak the truth, do the right thing, and trust God. May the Holy Spirit help you be bold!