

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

- Welcome Question: What does it mean to be bold? When have you acted boldly?
- Curiosity Questions
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Everywhere I Go ...
- Preteen Responding in Worship: The Holy Spirit with Me
- 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 or Small 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

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

[Games & Activities Guide](#)

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

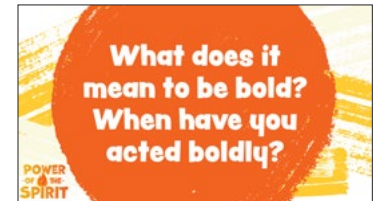
As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "I'm curious.." before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the 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?



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?"

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 to be curious.

Word of Wonder Activity

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 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), yarn or string (5'–10' for every 2 kids), tape measure (prep only), scissors (prep only), sharpened pencils or thumbtacks (several), paper cups (1 per kid)

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.

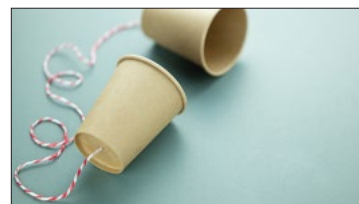
Follow these steps to make paper cup phones:

1. Carefully poke a hole in the bottom of each cup using a sharpened pencil or thumbtack.
2. Loop each end of a long piece of string/yarn through the hole in a cup.
3. 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.



God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Invite kids to find today's part of God's big story by turning in their Bibles to Acts 3–4. Acts is the fifth book in the New Testament and comes right after the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. If the kids' Bibles are all the same, consider telling them what page they can find the passage on, so it's easier for them to find.

In Acts 3, Peter and John are going to the temple when they encounter a man who has been unable to walk since birth. Instead of giving him money, Peter offers something far greater through the power of Jesus. The healing draws a crowd, and Peter uses the moment to point people to Jesus as the source of that power. He also reminds them of who Jesus is and what God has done through Him. As you read, think about how this miracle connects to the power of the Holy Spirit and why Peter is careful to give credit to Jesus.

Invite kids to follow along as you read the following: Acts 3:1–8 and 4:5–10, 13–14.

Elementary 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?**

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.

Leader Tip: Kids may struggle to understand why God healed people we read about in the Bible, while they may know people who are sick or injured and haven't been healed. Acknowledge that sickness and death is difficult and sad. And assure them that no matter the timing, Jesus loves us and promises that one day everyone who trusts in Him will be completely healed forever in heaven!

Make It Inclusive: If kids struggle to answer open-ended questions, ask them as either/or questions instead. For example, ask, "Did the man who couldn't walk ask for money or for a coat?" and "Did Peter and John give the man a hug or help him walk?"

Preteen 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?**

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.

Small Group Prayer Time

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!

Elementary Responding in Worship: Everywhere I Go ...

SUPPLIES: posterboard or butcher paper (5 sheets), marker (prep only), tape or glue, coloring utensils, masking or painter's tape (optional)

RESOURCES: [Everywhere I Go Sheets \(1 set/ SG\)](#), “This I Believe” from the [Power of the Spirit Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

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. If your group is larger than about 25 kids, plan on printing multiple sets of Everywhere I Go Sheets and preparing additional posters. (You'll want one poster for every five kids.)



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.**

Play “This I Believe” from the [Power of the Spirit Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids draw and pray. 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!

Make It Inclusive: Provide a variety of drawing utensils to benefit kids of varying fine motor skill levels. For example, markers require less muscle strength/pressure than crayons or colored pencils. If possible, also have simple adaptive tools on hand, such as pencil grips. If some kids struggle to work next to others on the same poster, give them their own sheets of paper and invite them to make their own unique mini poster.

Preteen Responding in Worship: The Holy Spirit with Me

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

RESOURCES: [The Holy Spirit with Me Sheet \(1 per preteen kid\)](#), “This I Believe” from the [Power of the Spirit Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of The Holy Spirit with Me Sheet for each kid. 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 listen to a song called “This I Believe.” While it plays, I invite you to 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.**

Play “This I Believe” from the [Power of the Spirit Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids draw quietly. After a couple of minutes, pause the music and continue: **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!



Continue playing “This I Believe” as kids draw quietly. 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!