

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: Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to fill His disciples, helping them follow Him and share the good news! Jesus-followers today are filled with the same internal guide and helper—God's promised Holy Spirit.

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

Activity: Scary or Not?

Activity: Share the Message

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Here, There, and Everywhere

Activity: Scary or Not?

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only)

RESOURCES: Toddler Scary or Not Sheet (1/LL SG)

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 fi st, 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.

Worship

Today we'll learn about how the Holy Spirit helps us be brave. Let's thank God for the Holy Spirit!

Play songs from the [Little Learners playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, toy people figures or block people (about 8, at least 3 are male)

RESOURCES: [Bible Story Picture \(1/SG\)](#)

[Gather kids to watch the God's Big Story Video, then circle up for a short review:](#)

In today's Bible story, you will be reinforcing 4 main points from our story: Peter and John trusted Jesus, Jesus's power healed the man, the man praised God, and the Holy Spirit helps us be bold.

Friends, can you say Peter? *Peter*

Can you say John? *John*

Show two of the toy figures and walk them forward.

Peter and John trust Jesus.

Say this with me: Peter and John trusted Jesus. *Peter and John trusted Jesus*

Place the man figure sitting or laying down.

They saw a man who could not walk

Say this with me: He could not walk. *He could not walk*

Peter said in Jesus' name, stand up and walk. And the man walked.

Make the figure jump.

Say this with me and show me muscle arms as you say it: Jesus' power healed the man. Jesus has power

Make the figure jump and raise arms.

The man jumped and praised God!

Say this with me: The man praised God! *The man praised God*

Add a few toy people as a crowd.

Peter told the people about Jesus. The Holy Spirit helped him be brave enough to share with others.

Say this with me: The Holy Spirit helps us be bold. *The Holy Spirit helps us be bold*

Repeat all 4 again with the toy people: Peter and John trusted Jesus, Jesus's power healed the man, the man praised God, and the Holy Spirit helps us be bold.

That's right, friends! Trust Jesus, Jesus has power, praise God, and the Holy Spirit helps me!

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Thank you for the world so sweet. kids repeat

Thank you for the food we eat. kids repeat

Thank you for the birds that sing. kids repeat

Thank you God for everything. kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

The Holy Spirit gives us power.

—from Acts 1:8

Our Word of Wonder for the Power of the Spirit series is from Acts 1:8. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.
- **GIVES US**—Point to yourself.
- **POWER.**—Flex your arm muscles.
- **FROM ACTS 1:8**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

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!

SUPPLIES: painter's tape

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.