

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

- Arrival Activity - Play Stations:
 - Post Office
 - Telephone
 - Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Bold or Not Bold?
- Word of Wonder: From Acts 1:8
- Craft: Colorful Rocks
 - Read the Story!
- Circle Time: Boldness Ball
 - older group dismiss to LG if necessary
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship
- God's Big Story: Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing
- Game: Get the Message Across!





LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

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: From 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!



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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: From Acts 1:8

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: various boxes, paper (1 per kid), envelopes (1 per kid), coloring utensils, stickers (at least 1 per kid), stamps and ink, paper cups, yarn, scissors (prep only), play mailbox or box decorated to look like a mailbox (optional), toy microphone or a megaphone with volume turned down (optional)

RESOURCES: [Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Post Office

Set up: Set out various boxes, paper, and envelopes. Set out coloring utensils, stickers, and stamps and ink. If you have a toy mailbox or want to make one out of cardboard, you can set it up as well.

Play: Let the kids stack the boxes and draw on the sheets of paper. They can put the stamps on the sheets. Help kids fold the sheets and put them in the boxes or envelopes with stickers on the outside. If you have a mailbox, they can put the boxes and letters in it.

Play Station: Telephone

Set up: Before kids arrive, poke a hole in the bottom of each paper cup. Cut yarn pieces that are about 2'–3' in length. Thread ends of yarn through a pair of cups and tie off each end, so it stays inside the cup. Set out several telephones at the station. Optional: If you have toy microphones or a child-friendly megaphone (with volume turned down), you can set those out as well.

Play: Encourage kids to whisper and then speak louder in the cups to each other, and encourage them to take turns listening and speaking to one another. If you have a toy microphone or megaphone, they can put on performances for one another or sing songs.

Play Station: Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color the sheet. Kids also could turn the paper over and draw a picture using bright, bold colors.

Curiosity Activity: Bold or Not Bold?

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only)

RESOURCES: Bold or Not Bold Sheet (1/ EC SG)

Ahead of time, print one copy of the Bold or Not Bold Sheet. Cut along the dotted lines to create nine picture cards that you can hold up and show the kids.

What do you think it means to be bold? Allow kids to respond. **Being bold means that you show courage or show how brave you are, even when something might be scary. 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 don't, and trusting God. Let's play a game to see when we need help to be bold and have courage and when we don't need courage. I'm going to show you a picture of something, and if you think we would need to have courage and be brave to do it, show me your strong arms!** Show how to flex arm muscles. **If we don't need to be brave and bold to do it, shake your head to say, "No."** Show how to shake your head back and forth.



Show a picture and name each of the following examples, pausing after each one so the kids can respond by showing their strong arms or by shaking their heads.

Do you need to be bold and have courage for ...

- climbing up a super tall tree?
- picking up a bug?
- telling someone to stop making fun of your friend?
- going to the dentist?
- asking for help?
- going down a big slide on the playground?
- jumping into a pool?
- trying a new food?
- telling someone about Jesus?

We all have times when it feels easy to be brave and have courage, and other times, it can be really scary. Being brave and having courage is not something that we ever need to do on our own though. When we follow Jesus, He gives us His Spirit—the Holy Spirit! Today we're going to hear a story in the Bible about two men who had boldness through the power of the Holy Spirit!

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.



God's big story tells us to share about Jesus with people all over the world. The Holy Spirit helped Peter and John do that! We can tell people near us about Jesus, like people in our family, our neighborhood, at the playground, or at school. We can also share Jesus with those who are far away.

Have kids form two lines in the middle of the room, with the two lines facing one another. The lines should be about an arm's length from each other. Assign the first part of the verse to one line ("The Holy Spirit") and the last part of the verse to the other line ("gives us power"). Have the kids say the verse as a call and response.

We're going to practice sharing the good news about Jesus with those who are close to us, a little farther, and even farther! When you share with someone who is close to you, you don't need to talk loudly, so let's whisper the verse. Have kids take turns whispering the verse to the person standing in line across from them.

Good job! Now we're going to each take two big steps backwards. We're going to share the verse again, but this time, the person will be a little bit farther away, so we have to say it a little louder! Have kids take turns saying the verse to the person across from them, a little louder than last time.

Continue having kids take steps back and encourage them to get louder each time. When both lines of kids have their backs against the wall, or are at the edge of the room, have them shout the verse across the room to the person or line across from them. **Great job sharing the good news of Jesus and saying our Word of Wonder!**

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Who is someone close to you that you can share about Jesus with?** (Possible answers: a family member, a friend at school or play group, a friend next door you play with, etc.)
- **Who is someone you know who lives far away that you can share about Jesus with?** (Possible answers: a friend who has moved away, a relative who lives far away, or someone you meet while you're on vacation.)
- **Why does God want us to tell others about Jesus?** (He wants everyone to know Him and follow Him. Jesus loves everyone, and He died and rose again so we can have our sins forgiven and be closer to God.)

Craft: Colorful Rocks // Read the Story

SUPPLIES: smooth rocks (at least 2" in diameter; 1 per kid), washable markers (preferably bright colors), paint pens (optional), wet wipes (optional)

Sometimes it can be a little scary to tell other people about Jesus, but the Holy Spirit can help us be bold! We can even be creative in telling others about Jesus.

We're going to use bright, bold colors to draw on these rocks. By using bright, bold colors, we'll remember that we can be bold and brave when we talk to others about Jesus. You can draw a cross, heart, smiley face, or anything that reminds you of Jesus. You can also write your name on the back or ask a leader to help you write your name or initials. Give a rock and markers to each kid. Tell them to listen to the Bible story as they paint their rocks. Hold up your Bible and tell kids that today's story is from the book of Acts in the Bible.



Today's story comes from the Bible after Jesus went back to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit. Jesus' friends, Peter and John, were going to the temple when they saw a man who could not walk. He had never been able to walk and was asking people for help.

Peter looked at the man and told him to look at him. The man expected to receive money, but Peter had something better to give.

Say this with me: **Jesus has power.** *Jesus has power*

Peter said that in Jesus' name, the man could stand up and walk. And right away, his legs became strong. He stood up, walked, and even jumped around.

Keep painting your rock with bright, bold colors.

The man was so happy that he praised God for what Jesus had done!

Say this with me: **Praise God!** *Praise God*

People saw what happened and were amazed. Peter told them that this miracle happened because of Jesus.

Say this with me: **Peter told others about Jesus.** *Peter told others about Jesus.*

Even when it was hard, Peter was not afraid to talk about Jesus. The Holy Spirit helped him be bold and brave.

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

As you paint your rock bright and bold, remember that the Holy Spirit helps us be bold too. We can tell others about Jesus, just like Peter did.

Say today's Wonder Truth with me: The Holy Spirit helps us be bold!

Leader Tip: ḠNB ḠNB*æ æšōNT|ḡš | ḠNBρ*š Nṽ tNō~ó |žš|æ Nṽ ḡf ṽ š ṽḡḡ | ó ṽ ḡšṽ ṽ|ōš|žš|ṽḡ|
ōTNoó| Nt NḡšžT æT|ṽḡṽ ~ḡæō ḠNB*æ f ṽ ḡḡḡš ḡN ṽḡḡš ḡšž ṽ ḡæš|ó UNt ṽž|ḡ ḡžšṽ Ḡ|B ρḡḡ NB ḡžšḡt tNō~ó.

Encourage kids to give the rock to someone as a gift and tell them about Jesus. The rock can help them remember that Jesus loves them!

[illegible]

Circle Time: Boldness Ball

SUPPLIES: ηJ¹⁰⁰

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Let's do an activity where we'll do some bold things to answer questions. I'm going to roll this ball to one of you. ἡ Ζῆλῃ ἄρεός βῆξ ἦ ἄγῃ **When you get the ball, you can stand up, and I'm going to give you a challenge. It might answer a question in a loud, bold voice!** εἰς βῆ ἡ ἄρεός ἑνεαῖς τῷ ὀφθαλμῷ ὁ ἡ βῆξ ὁ βῆ
αἰς ἡ βῆξ ὁ βῆξ ἡ ἡνῶς ὡνῶς **Or it might be a challenge to do something brave and bold. Are you ready?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND BOLD ACTIVITIES

- △ **Where were Peter and John going at the beginning of today's God's big story?** (to the temple to pray)
- △ **What did the man at the gate ask Peter and John for?** (money)
- △ **Since Peter and John didn't have any money, what did they do instead?** (They healed him, through power from the Holy Spirit!)
- △ **Can you jump for joy like the man who was healed?** (Invite the kid to jump for joy!)
- △ **What did the people think when they saw the man walking?** (They were amazed.)
- △ **Can you stand up, gasp loudly, and give us your amazed face?** (Invite the kids to do the action.)
- △ **When Peter and John healed the man and told people about Jesus, the leaders were not happy. Where did they send Peter and John?** (to prison)

- **What would you say to someone who didn't know about Jesus?** (Possible answers: Jesus loves you; Jesus died for you; Jesus wants you to follow Him.)
- **How does it feel to tell other people about Jesus**
- **What do you need the Holy Spirit to help you be bold about today?**

God's big story tells us to share the good news of Jesus with everyone, near and far! That's a big job to do, and some people might feel scared to tell others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit gives us power so we can be bold and brave when we talk to others about Jesus. Peter and John, and the other followers we heard about today, prayed and talked to God after God healed the man at the gate. We can talk to God also!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for giving us boldness and bravery. God hears all our prayers!

Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

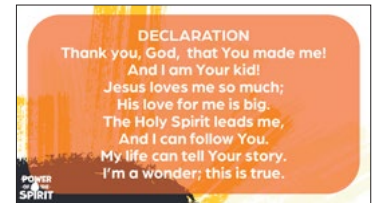
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for each kid here today. Help us focus on You and hear what You have to say to us. Thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to help us be bold and do the work You have called us to do—telling others about You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

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

Play songs Take You at Your Word, Happy Day and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (1/EC SG)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the books of Acts in the New Testament.

Read the Experience It Script on the following page.

Leader Tip: You may want to write the verse references on a sticky note and place it in your Bible near the verses ahead of time, so you don't have to look back to see which verses to read or skip.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: toy people figures or block people (about 10, at least 3 are male)

Ahead of time, gather around 10 toy people figures or block people. You'll need at least three of them to be male. The kids can help move the toy people figures during the story.

You can help tell our story today using these toy people. We've been learning that Jesus went to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to His followers, just like He promised. The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence. The Holy Spirit is God! When the Holy Spirit gave Jesus' followers power, they started to share Jesus' story with everyone.

One day, two of Jesus' disciples (or followers), named Peter and John, went into the temple. Have a kid come up and place two toy men side by side to be Peter and John. Have this kid continue to move Peter and John around as the story continues. **The temple is the place where people worshiped God. The Jewish people gathered in the temple every afternoon to pray together, so it was very crowded. There was a man sitting at one of the gates that went into the temple. This man hadn't been able to walk since he was born.** Have another kid come up and place a toy man lying down next to Peter and John. This kid can help move this man around as the story continues. **Every day, this man sat at the gate and asked people for money to help him live. When the man saw Peter and John, he asked them for money.**

Peter looked at the man and said, "I don't have any silver or gold. But I'll give you what I do have." Have the kid moving Peter and John repeat the words. **"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk"** (Acts 3:6). Have the kid repeat the rest of the words. **Peter took the man's hand and helped him up. The man felt his feet get strong.** Have the kid moving the healed man stand him up on his feet. **For the first time, he could walk on his own two feet. The man went with Peter and John into the temple. He walked and jumped and shouted praises to God. Everyone in the temple knew who this man was. So when they saw him on his feet, they were amazed.** Have kids in the audience gasp and make an amazed face. **Peter told the people that the power of Jesus healed the man. Many of the people believed and became followers of Jesus too.**

Some religious leaders were upset about what Peter and John taught about Jesus. Have kids in the audience growl and make an angry face. **The leaders didn't believe that Jesus came back to life. They didn't want Peter and John to share God's story with other people. The leaders put Peter and John into prison that night.** Have the kid moving Peter and John take them off to the side. **The next day, they brought Peter and John before the Jewish court of law called the Sanhedrin.** Have one or two kids come up and place all the rest of the toy people in a line. Have the kid moving Peter and John stand them up facing the line. **The religious leaders asked Peter and John how they had power to heal the man.**

Peter and John just spent the night in prison. They could have been too scared or shy to tell the truth. But they were not scared or shy. Peter and John were bold. Have kids in the audience flex their arm muscles. **Bold means they were brave and sure of themselves. The Holy Spirit helped**

Peter and John tell the leaders that Jesus gave them power to heal the man and share the message. The people in the court didn't believe in Jesus. Peter then told them that only Jesus could forgive them and help them be close with God.

The religious leaders were amazed. Have kids in the audience gasp and give an amazed face. **Peter and John were bold because of the Holy Spirit.** Have kids in the audience fl x their arm muscles. **Their words came from the Holy Spirit. The religious leaders let the disciples go. But the leaders told the disciples not to tell the story of Jesus anymore. Peter and John were bold again.** Have kids in the audience fl x their arm muscles. **They said that they would not stop sharing the story of Jesus.** **Then Peter and John met with the rest of the disciples and told them what happened. They all prayed together.** Have kids put their hands together like they're praying. **The Holy Spirit filled them and helped them share Jesus' message even more boldly.** Have kids fl x their arm muscles. **When we tell God's story to other people, the Holy Spirit helps us be bold too.**

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BE BOLD. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

All throughout the Bible, we see examples of times when the Holy Spirit helped people be brave and bold. The Holy Spirit helped Joshua lead God's people—the Israelites—after Moses. The Holy Spirit helped Gideon—a soldier—in battle. The Holy Spirit helped King David be brave and bold. The same Holy Spirit brought Jesus back to life and filled the Jesus-followers at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit lives in us when we trust in Jesus and helps us be bold.

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. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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 trust the Holy Spirit to help you speak the truth, do the right thing, and trust God. May the Holy Spirit help you be bold!

Game: Get the Message Across!

SUPPLIES: carpet squares or plastic floor spots (8–10)

Spread out the carpet squares or plastic floor spots across the room to form a path from one end of the room to the other. Try to have the spots close together so kids can make it across.

Before the game begins, have a leader stand at one end of the room. Then gather everyone else at the other end of the room.

In this game, we're going to have to be very bold and courageous! We're safe where we're standing now, but we're going to pretend that the rest of the floor across the room is lava! We can't step in that! But we have a very important message to get across to (name the leader at the other end of the room)! **Can anyone guess what that message is?** Allow kids to guess. **Our message is that Jesus loves** (name the leader). **So we must get that message across!**

Do you see all these squares (or spots) on the floor? Point out the squares/spots. **Those are big rocks that we can step on and be safe, but we can't touch the floor! We'll go one at a time. When it's your turn, try to step only on these big rocks. If you make it across, then you can say, "Jesus loves you!" Are you ready?**

Let each kid have a turn. If a kid steps onto the floor in tead of the squares or spots, let her go back and try again. Have some grace and don't call out kids too quickly or too often if they accidentally step on the floo . You may also need to remind them what their message is if they forget.

Leader Tip: If you have kids who might struggle to get across on their own, consider making a leader's or another kid's shoes "special lava-proof shoes" and allow them to help. Kids could even take turns being the one who is the helper and the one who goes across to say the message.

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO

