

### 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**

**Word of Wonder**

**Prayer and Blessing**

**Activity: Here, There, and Everywhere**

**Wonder@Home™**

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

## Activity: Scary or Not?

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Toddler Scary or Not Sheet

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 first, 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

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Power of the Spirit Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

**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 [Power of the Spirit Early Childhood Spotify 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)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

**Our God's big story today is about two men, named Peter and John, who were bold and brave when they told people about Jesus.** Encourage the kids to say, "Peter" and then "John." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

**One day, Peter and John were walking to the temple to pray. They were followers of Jesus.** Set out two toy men to be Peter and John and have them walk a short distance. **The temple was the place where people went to worship God. Peter and John saw a man at one of the gates. This man could not walk. He sat at the gate to ask people for money.** Set out a third toy man and have him lie down near Peter and John.

**The man asked Peter and John for money. Peter told the man he didn't have any money to give, but he had something even better.**

**Peter said, "In the name of Jesus, walk!" And the man walked! He walked, and he jumped, and he praised God, too.** Make the healed man figure jump up and walk and dance around. **When other people saw this man walking and praising God, they were surprised that he was healed.**

**Then Peter and John told the people all about Jesus. They said that God healed the man.** Set out three toy people in a line in front of Peter, John, and the healed man. **Peter and John weren't afraid to talk about Jesus because the Holy Spirit helped them be bold.**

**Some of the leaders at the temple didn't like that Peter and John were teaching about Jesus, so they put Peter and John in jail.** Have the last two toy people come and take Peter and John away from the others.

**That feels like it could be kind of scary, huh? But Peter and John didn't have to worry or feel scared because the Holy Spirit helps us be bold and brave. The Holy Spirit helped Peter be bold**

when he told the leaders the man was healed in the name of Jesus! Have Peter and John turn around and face the leaders to talk to them.

When the leaders realized that Peter and John were not scared and that they knew a lot about Jesus, they let them go! Peter and John kept boldly sharing about Jesus everywhere. The Holy Spirit helps us be bold!

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Power of the Spirit Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

### WORD OF WONDER

The Holy Spirit gives us power.

—from Acts 1:8

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **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.