

May 13, 2026–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; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. — Acts 1:8

CURIOSITY

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Play Stations:
 - Post Office
 - Telephone
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: [From Acts 1:8](#)

FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Circle Time: Boldness Ball
- Craft: Colorful Rocks
- Game: Get the Message Across!

IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Responding in Worship: Share Your Faith
- Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: Get Up and Walk

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! [WONDER@HOME \(PDF\)](#)



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

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

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: 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)

Wonder Ink 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 draw on the sheets of paper. They can put the stamps on the sheets. Help kids fold the sheets and put them in the envelopes with stickers on the outside. If you have a mailbox, they can put the 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.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: puppet

Leader: Before our story, we're going to talk to our friend, the curious cat! Do you remember this cat's name? *(Invite the kids to shout out Tac's name if they know it.)*

Tac the Cat: That's right! I'm Tac the Cat! It's good to see you all again! I've been wanting to tell you all about something that happened to me this week. I was feeling pretty scared, but my mom told me I could be brave! But first, I want to hear from you. Can you think of a time when you had to be brave?

(Give kids a chance to share about a time when they needed to be brave.)

Tac the Cat: Wow! You're really brave! Thanks for telling me about your stories. You see, I had to be brave too. The other day, I was playing outside in the yard, and I saw a new dog moving in next door. I was pretty scared because dogs don't usually like cats. They like to bark at me sometimes, and that makes me feel afraid.

Leader: Oh, wow. That is pretty scary for a cat, Tac. Did this new dog bark at you?

Tac the Cat: Well, no. But she wanted to come over and play, and she was bigger than me, so I was scared.

Leader: I see. What did you do? Did you play with the new dog?

Tac the Cat: *(Tac puts his head down.)* Not yet. She looked very friendly and happy, and her tail was wagging like she just wanted to play and be my friend. But I was too scared.

Leader: We all need help being brave sometimes. Don't we, kids? What helps you be brave and bold when you're feeling scared? *(Allow the kids to respond.)*

Leader: Those are really good ideas! We can always pray when we're feeling scared, and we can ask God to help us be brave.

Tac the Cat: We can?

Leader: Yes, this reminds me of our story today. God helped some men be bold in a scary situation. God helped them say just the right thing too. We'll learn all about it in God's big story today.

Tac the Cat: Wow! Maybe I can pray and not feel scared around this new dog anymore. Maybe I'll be able to make a new friend. I'm going to see if I can find her. Bye!

Have you ever been curious about what it means to be brave or bold? Let's take a moment and think: What scary situation have you faced? Allow the kids to respond. **What, or who, helps you when you're scared?** Allow the kids to respond. **Today we'll learn about how God sends the Holy Spirit to help us be brave and bold, even when we face things that are tough or scary.**

Today's Wonder Truth is THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BE BOLD! We'll discover how the Holy Spirit helps us!

Declaring God's Wonder

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Early Childhood Declaration [Video](#) or [Slide](#) (optional)

Show the Early Childhood Declaration [Video](#) or [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 to God and 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.)*

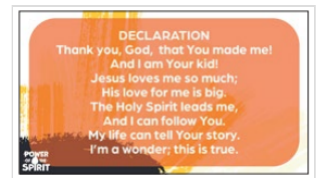
March in place like you're following the leader.

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").





Belief

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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.**

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: The Biggest Story Bible

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week with the kids 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 story in the Biggest Story Bible- chapter 86, pg 442

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.

Watch the [Peter and John God's Big Story Video!](#)



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.



Faith

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Circle Time: Boldness Ball

SUPPLIES: ball

Have kids sit in a circle with the leader in the middle holding a ball. **In our story, we learned that the Holy Spirit helped Peter and John tell the religious leaders that Jesus gave them power to heal the man and share the message of Jesus. The religious leaders were amazed. Peter and John were bold because of the Holy Spirit.**

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. Show kids the ball. **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!** Get a little louder as you say this to demonstrate a bold voice. **Or it might be a challenge to do something brave and bold. Are you ready?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND BOLD ACTIVITIES

- **What surprised you about our story today?**
- **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.*)
- **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!

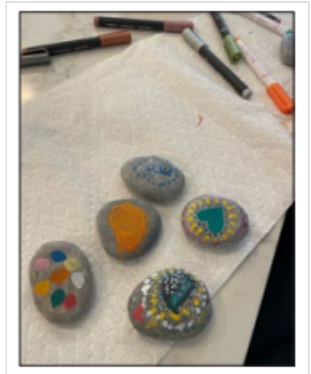
Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for giving us boldness and bravery. God hears all our prayers!

Craft: Colorful Rocks

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. After our lesson today, you can give the rock to someone as a gift and tell them about Jesus. The rock can help them remember that Jesus loves them!



Leader Tip: You could decorate a couple of rocks ahead of time with a smiley face, heart, cross, or other drawing kids could imitate to give them ideas for what they can put on their rocks.

As kids are drawing, ask them to think about who they want to give their rock to. They can even leave their rocks in various places (such as a public playground) to let someone else find and see inspiring messages about Jesus. If time allows and if there are enough supplies, kids can make a second rock to keep. This can remind them that God loves them too and that He helps them be bold when they tell others about Him. Provide wet wipes to help kids clean their hands if necessary.



Identity

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Create space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Be Bold

SCRIPTURE: Acts 3–4

WORD OF WONDER: From Acts 1:8

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!

Closing Activity: Get Up and Walk

Peter told the man at the gate to "Get up and walk!" And he was healed by the power of the Holy Spirit! But he didn't just stand. The man jumped and praised God because he was so happy and thankful! We're going to get up and walk in this game, like the man did when God healed him.

Have kids spread out and sit on the floor. When I say, "Get up and walk," you'll try to stand up as fast as you can, then walk and be the first to come to me and give me a high five. In this game, you can't touch the ground with your hands while standing up, and you can't run once you're up! You must walk to me. Play several rounds this way.

For an extra challenge, have kids choose a partner. Try to pair kids with others who are similar in age and size. Have kids sit back-to-back on the floor and link elbows. **This time, when I say, “Get up and walk,” you’ll try to be the first group standing, keeping your elbows linked, and walk together as a pair to me. Only one person in each pair should high five me. The first to high five me wins!**

Make It Inclusive: For kids who have physical limitations, have them start from a squatted position instead of sitting, and have them face their partner instead of sitting back-to-back.