



Unit 30 | Session 3

PETER CONTINUED TO PREACH

Acts 4

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Peter kept preaching about Jesus even when it was hard. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus' followers from sharing the good news about Jesus. The gospel is great news that we must share if we believe in Jesus.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

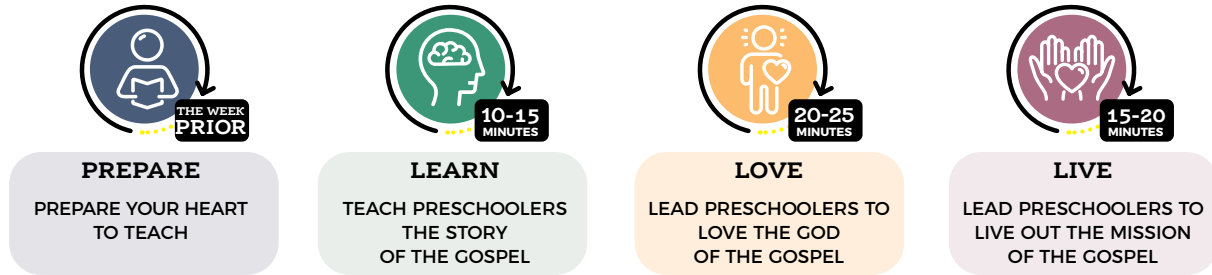
Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus?
We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe in Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 10:14



IN ADVANCE TO TEACH THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

In Acts 4, we encounter Peter’s Spirit-led boldness and the religious leaders’ inability to stop the gospel’s power at work. Despite the danger they faced, the church remained steadfast in their prayers and proclamations, being filled with the courage and conviction that would become their legacy.

What truths did the early church cling to amidst such great persecution and peril? How were their prayer lives shaped by this encounter with the Holy Spirit?

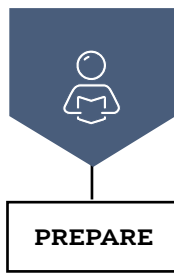
Standing before these members of the religious elite, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and couldn’t stop declaring Jesus as Lord. Though he had spent the night in jail, he was resolved in his mission to make no name for himself apart from Christ. As he addressed these powerful men, he testified to Scripture’s truth, how Christ’s rejection had been prophesied in Psalm 118. In doing so, he offered an opportunity for his persecutors to place their faith in Jesus, too. In response to Peter’s boldness, they were at a loss for words. The disciples’ time with Jesus offered more insight into God’s truth than the Jewish leaders possessed from all their years in rabbi school, and the power of the Holy Spirit within them illuminated their minds to recall this truth.

When the church heard news of Peter and John’s time spent before the Sanhedrin, they responded the only way they knew how: altogether, voices raised to heaven, in prayer before God. They reminded one another—and God Himself—of His truths declared so long ago in Psalm 2. Their course of action became one of boldness through the filling of the Holy Spirit as these men and women continued to show and tell the world about the Savior in whom they placed their hope. In answer to their faithful prayers, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, being sent out to keep doing His will.

As you lead your preschoolers this week, remind them—and yourself—that even in our stickiest situations and circumstances, God’s Word remains the rock where we find truth. We are invited to pray bold prayers and to ask for His Spirit to lead us in the places we don’t have strength to go; our faith is revealed through our boldness in action.

TERMS TO KNOW

Boldness: the moral freedom to speak the truth publicly; the confidence with which Christians can now approach God because of the redeeming work of Christ



IN ADVANCE TO TEACH THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



Welcome and worship with song

- “From the Inside Out” song
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Peter Continued to Preach” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)
- timer

Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “How Can They Believe (Romans 10:14)” song

Learn the big picture question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

- “Working in You” song
- “One Foundation (Preschool Version)” song



See and say

- Bibles with pictures of Jesus

Complete an obstacle course

- masking tape
- classroom chairs
- classroom table
- various classroom toys
- bell

Play and pretend

- dramatic play hospital items (blankets, pillows, toy first aid kits, and dolls or stuffed toys)

Match sounds

- small plastic jars or plastic eggs
- items that rattle or jingle (beans, jingle bells, coins, buttons, and small interlocking blocks)

Reveal Jesus’ name

- pencil
- dot stickers
- dot markers (optional)



Review

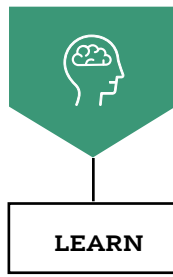
- Giant Timeline
- “How Can They Believe (Romans 10:14)” song

Missions Moment

- “Telling Guatemalans About the King of Kings” missions video

Toss a beanbag

- large blank index cards
- beanbags
- masking or painter’s tape



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 WELCOME AND WORSHIP WITH SONG

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “From the Inside Out” to engage them and help them feel welcomed.

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Play a quiet game. Tell preschoolers that they must stay quiet for 30 seconds. Set a timer for 30 seconds. At the end of the time, say “go” and tell them to shout Jesus’ name.

SAY “It is hard to be quiet when you have something important to say. In today’s Bible story, Peter and John were told to stop talking about Jesus. They could not stay quiet. They had to tell others what they knew about Jesus.”

Open your Bible to Acts 4. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

PETER CONTINUED TO PREACH

“Peter and John were at the temple. Peter had healed a man and was preaching to the people. **The religious leaders were upset that Peter was teaching about Jesus, so they put Peter and John in jail** until the next day. Even so, many of the people who heard their message believed in Jesus.

The next day, the religious leaders met together. They asked Peter and John, “How did you heal this man?”

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and **said, “This man was healed by the power of Jesus. You nailed Jesus to a cross, but God raised Him from the dead!”** Then Peter told the religious leaders that Jesus is the most important One of all.

The religious leaders did not know what to say. They told Peter and John to be quiet and to stop telling people about Jesus.

But Peter said, “We cannot keep quiet. We must tell people what we have seen and heard.” Peter and John met with other believers and prayed that God would give them power to be brave and tell people about Jesus. ”

Christ Connection: Peter kept preaching about Jesus even when it was hard. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus’ followers from sharing the good news about Jesus. The gospel is great news that we must share if we believe in Jesus.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Welcome a pastor missionary: Invite a pastor or missionary to visit the classroom. Inform children that pastors and missionaries teach about Jesus. Ask them to tell the Bible story.

Get quiet: Demonstrate how to quiet the group by saying “shhh” and placing your index finger by your lips. Prompt preschoolers to say “shhh” and make the sign when hearing the word “quiet” mentioned in the story. At the end, remind preschoolers that Peter and John could not keep quiet; they needed to tell people about Jesus.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Romans 10:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read aloud the verse. Show preschoolers where it is located and invite each child to touch the verse number 14. To the familiar tune “The Farmer in the Dell,” sing:

“How can they believe?

How can they believe?

People must hear about Jesus.

That’s how they can believe.”

Sing the song a couple of times and read the verse again.

SAY ““ People need to hear about Jesus, so they can decide whether or not to believe and trust Him as their Lord and Savior. We can tell others what we know about Jesus. What is something you know about Jesus? ””

Sing the key passage song “How Can They Believe (Romans 10:14).”

4 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY ““ Let’s say our big picture question together in a whisper voice. [Lead children to whisper.] **Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus?** Do you remember the answer? Shout it out if you do! [Lead children to shout the answer.] **We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe in Him.** Peter and John could not be quiet, they wanted everyone to know about Jesus. They told people about Jesus even when it was hard. Everyone who trusts in Jesus must share what they know about Jesus with others. ””

5 RESPOND THROUGH SONG AND PRAYER

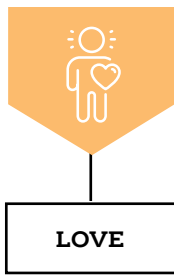
SAY ““ Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus’ followers, Peter, and John, from sharing the good news about Jesus. The gospel is great news that we must share if we believe in Jesus. ””

Sing “Working in You” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “One Foundation (Preschool Version).” You may also collect an offering.

SAY ““ Jesus, help us to learn more about You as we hear stories from the Bible. Help us to be bold as we tell others the good news of Your love and forgiveness. Amen. ””

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 SEE AND SAY



Give each child a picture Bible. Tell preschoolers to look through the Bible for pictures of Jesus. When they find a picture of Jesus, encourage them to say what they see in the picture. Talk to preschoolers about what Jesus is doing in each picture they find.

SAY “Which pictures of Jesus did you see in the Bible? Peter and John knew they had to tell others the miracles they had seen and heard. Peter healed a man by the power of Jesus and preached about what happened. The religious leaders did not want Peter and John to tell others about Jesus. They knew they could not stop telling others about Jesus.”

2 COMPLETE AN OBSTACLE COURSE

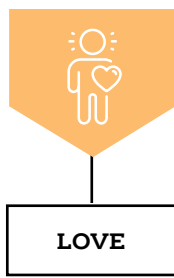
Set up a short obstacle course in the classroom. Consider enlisting children to help you set up the course. Tape a line on the floor as a starting point. Arrange two chairs about two feet apart for a child to walk between. Then place a table a short distance from the chairs for a child to climb under. Place a toy on the floor a couple of feet away from the table and guide a child to walk around it. Next, lay a small block on the floor for a child to jump over. Finally, set a bell at the end of the obstacle course for the child to ring when she has completed the course. Add additional activities to the course as space allows and be careful to remove any items that are trip hazards.

SAY “Was that obstacle course easy or hard? Sometimes it was hard, but you kept working and trying and you rang the bell! The religious leaders did not want Peter and John to tell others about Jesus, so they put Peter and John in jail until the next day. Peter kept preaching about Jesus even when it was hard. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus’ followers from sharing the good news about Jesus. The gospel is great news that we must share if we believe in Jesus.”

3 PLAY AND PRETEND

Set up a dramatic play area to resemble a hospital. Add blankets, pillows, toy first aid kits, and dolls or stuffed toys. Explain that the word *brave* means “showing courage or ready to face a fear.” Talk about times when kids have to be brave, such as when they have to go to the hospital or a doctor’s office. Encourage preschoolers to pretend to be doctors and patients in the dramatic play hospital. Be sensitive to children who may have a fear of doctors.

SAY “Peter and John were brave and bold. Peter healed a man by the power of Jesus and preached about what happened. The religious leaders did not want Peter and John to tell others about Jesus. They knew they could not stop telling others about Jesus. They were brave and did what God wanted them to do.”



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

4 MATCH SOUNDS

Using small jars or containers with the outside covered with paper, or plastic eggs that can easily be opened, place an item that makes a noise inside each one and an identical item on a table. Examples of items may include: beans, jingle bells, coins, buttons, and small interlocking blocks. Challenge preschoolers to take turns shaking each jar or plastic egg and trying to match the sound to an item on the table. After matching all the items, open up the containers to find out if there are matches.

SAY “ You really had to use your ears to listen to find the correct match. The religious leaders told them to be quiet, but Peter and John kept telling people about Jesus. They could not stay quiet. Peter kept preaching about Jesus even when it was hard. They had to tell people about Jesus. ”

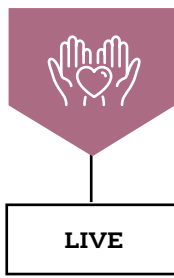
5 REVEAL JESUS' NAME

Using a pencil, write Jesus in large capital letters on a white sheet of paper for each preschooler. Place dot stickers or dot markers within reach. Lead preschoolers to trace Jesus' name by placing dot stickers on top of each letter. Point to Jesus' name on the page, say it, and prompt the preschooler to repeat it.

SAY “ Whose name did you cover with stickers? (Jesus) **Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus? We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe in Him.** Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus' followers from sharing the good news about Jesus. The gospel is great news that we must share if we believe in Jesus. ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 REVIEW

Point to the giant timeline as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Preschoolers' answers will vary.)
2. Why were the religious leaders upset? (because Peter was teaching about Jesus)
3. Who told Peter and John to be quiet and stop telling people about Jesus? (the religious leaders)
4. How did Peter and John show that they were brave? (They kept telling people about Jesus even after they were put in jail.)
5. What can you tell others about Jesus? (Answer will vary.)
6. **Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus? We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe in Him.**

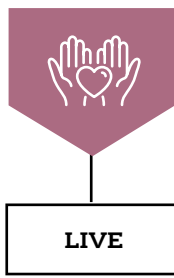
SAY “ Peter was preaching about Jesus at the temple. By the power of Jesus, he had just healed a man who could not walk. The religious leaders did not like what Peter was telling the people, so they put Peter and John in jail. The leaders questioned Peter and John and told them to be quiet and stop telling people about Jesus. Peter and John met with other believers and prayed that God would give them power to be brave and tell people about Jesus. Peter kept preaching about Jesus even when it was hard. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus' followers from sharing the good news about Jesus. The gospel is great news that we must share if we believe in Jesus. ”

Sing the key passage song “How Can They Believe (Romans 10:14).”

2 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY “ God, help us to be brave and tell others about Your Son, Jesus. Amen. ”



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

3 MISSIONS MOMENT

Show the “Telling Guatemalans About the King of Kings” missions video. Explain that the White family wants people in Guatemala to know about Jesus. People from churches in other areas come to Guatemala to teach Vacation Bible Schools, make house visits, and help the local people tell others about Jesus.

SAY “ Cerro de la Cruz means ‘the hill of the cross.’ The cross in Antigua, Guatemala, was installed in 1930. It is one of Antigua’s most famous points of interest. People climb the 6,468-foot hill to see the beautiful city view and a view of the volcanoes in the area. ”

Pray that many churches and individuals will want to help tell people about Jesus in Guatemala and other parts of the world. Pray that many children and their parents will trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord as they learn more about Him.

4 TOSS A BEANBAG

Write Jesus on several index cards. Place the cards on the floor, about a foot apart. Tape a line on the floor a few feet from the cards. Invite one child at a time to stand behind the line and toss a beanbag and try to get it to land on Jesus’ name. If it lands on His name, ask the child to say something he knows about Jesus. If it does not land on one of the cards, ask him what he would like to know about Jesus.

SAY “ The religious leaders did not want Peter and John to tell other about Jesus, so they put Peter and John in jail. Peter kept preaching about Jesus even when it was hard. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus’ followers from sharing the good news about Jesus. The gospel is great news that we must share if we believe in Jesus. ”