



Unit 30 | Session 3

PETER CONTINUED TO PREACH

Acts 4

Peter and John were at the temple. Peter had healed a man and was preaching. The religious leaders came up to them. They were annoyed that Peter was teaching about Jesus, so they put Peter and John in jail until the next day. Still, many of the people who heard their message believed in Jesus and were saved.

The next day, the religious leaders got together along with the high priest and his family. Peter and John stood before them, and they asked, “By what power or in what name have you been healing and teaching?”

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. He said to them, “Are you asking us about the healing of the man who could not walk? Are you asking who healed him? We want you and all the people of Israel to know that he was healed by the power of Jesus. You nailed Jesus to a cross, but God raised Him from the dead. It is because of Him that this man is healed!”

Peter told the religious leaders that they rejected Jesus because they thought He was not important, but He is the most important One of all.

The religious leaders were amazed, and they didn’t know what to say. They ordered Peter and John to never preach or teach in

the name of Jesus again.

Peter and John said, “We cannot be quiet. We must tell people about what we have seen and heard.” The religious leaders had no reason to punish Peter and John, so they let them go. Peter and John met with other believers and prayed that God would give them power to speak boldly and without fear.

Christ Connection: Peter continued to preach about Jesus even when it was difficult. 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 Christ.



1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

- **Have you ever told someone something very exciting? How did you feel when you shared the news with them?**
- **How did they respond?**

2 SESSION STARTER

OPTION 1: WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?



Form kids into groups of three. Provide each kid with a piece of paper and a pencil. Lead groups to sit in a single file line. Assign the first kid in each group a message they will write on their paper such as *A spider makes a web* or *Kids celebrate a birthday*. Be sure to tell kids not to look at each other's papers. Then direct him to pass his paper to the kid behind him. Direct the second kid to draw a picture of the message, trying to be as detailed as possible. Finally, lead the second kid to pass her paper to the third kid who will write what he thinks is the original message. Compare the final message to the original and see how close kids got. Repeat the activity, allowing kids to switch positions in the line.

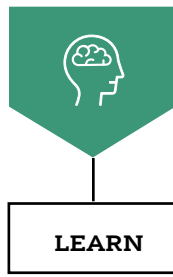
SAY “ It was challenging to pass the message using this form of communication, wasn't it? Today, we will learn not only how Peter and John clearly communicated the gospel, but also spread the good news of Jesus when it was difficult. ”

OPTION 2: CAN'T BE STOPPED

Provide kids with a large set of dominoes or wooden blocks. Direct kids to line the dominoes in a straight line, allowing for about an inch of space between each domino. After the dominoes are set up, invite a kid to knock the first domino so it sets off a chain reaction.

Direct kids to set up another domino chain, but allow them to be creative with the design such as creating a spiral or build chains that branch into multiple chains.

SAY “ All it took was one domino being knocked over to start a chain reaction. Watching this chain reaction reminds me of today's Bible story. Even when the religious leaders tried to stop the gospel from being shared, Peter and John continued to boldly share their faith. Like a chain reaction, they faithfully continued to share the gospel so that more and more people would hear the good news. Let's get ready to learn more. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about how Peter continued to preach. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from Acts 4.

•What does this story teach us about God?

God gave Peter and John boldness to continue preaching the gospel, even when they were threatened and arrested. Peter told them that the lame man was healed through the power of Jesus. Even though the religious leaders thought they killed Jesus, Peter told them Jesus rose again. Jesus is alive and His power was working through His disciples!

•How did Peter respond when the religious leaders told him to stop sharing the gospel?

Peter and John told the leaders they could not stop sharing the good news. Jesus told His followers to share what they had seen and heard. Peter and John wanted to be obedient to the Lord. They kept sharing the gospel, no matter the cost. We have this same mission. Like Peter and John, **we tell others about Jesus so that they will hear and believe the good news.**

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Peter continued to preach about Jesus even when it was difficult. 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 Christ.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Remind kids that the White family are missionaries in Antigua, Guatemala. Tell kids that thousands of people live in Antigua, many who do not know Jesus. Share how the White family invites people from churches outside of Guatemala to help tell others about Jesus. Tell kids that people from local churches come to Guatemala on short-term mission trips to teach Vacation Bible Schools, share their stories of how they came to know Jesus, make house visits, and encourage the Guatemalan Christians as they work to tell people about Jesus. Tell kids that the White family and other Guatemalan missionaries also sometimes host young adults and college students who come for one or two weeks, or even stay for up to two years.

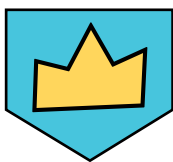
3 PRAY

Thank You, God, for the gift of salvation and the hope You provide through Jesus. Help us be obedient by sharing the gospel with those around us even when it is difficult. Thank You that You are always with us. In Jesus' name, amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



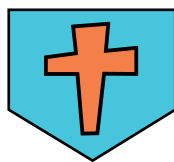
GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



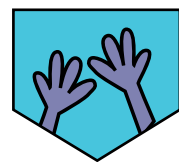
GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



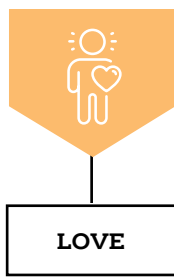
JESUS GIVES.

Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- **Why do some people try to stop Christians from sharing the gospel?**
- **How can you be bold like Peter and share the gospel with others?**

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Acts 4. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 4:13. Remind preteens that the boldness of Peter and John and the words they spoke proved they had been with Jesus. Tell kids that it was the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of Peter and John who allowed them to share the gospel, even when they faced imprisonment or persecution.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Acts 4:13 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. How can we have boldness to share the gospel with others?

Tell kids that to be bold for the gospel means that we trust God more than we fear others' reactions or responses. Tell kids that they can pray for boldness and ask God to help them be bold just as the disciples did. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Acts 4:29-30.)

2. Why is sharing the good news of the gospel often met with rejection or hostility?

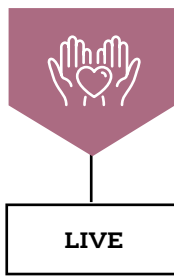
Explain that the Bible teaches that many will reject the truth of the gospel. Share how others may view the gospel message as foolishness. Encourage kids that no matter the difficulty we may face, obeying the Lord by sharing the good news with the world is always worth it. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 1:18.)

3. Peter preached the gospel to the religious leaders who rejected and crucified Jesus. How did this show the love of Jesus?

Discuss how the gospel is for every person, no matter what they have done. Tell kids that sharing the gospel is the most loving act we can do because Jesus is the only way to be saved. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 6:27-28.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why does God command Christians to tell others about Jesus?
We tell others about Jesus so they will hear and believe the good news.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Romans 10:14. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Remind kids that we must be faithful to share the good news with the world. Tell kids that God wants to use us so that others can hear the truth of the gospel and be saved.

Write out the key passage on a dry erase board, leaving space between each of the words. Say the key passage aloud as a large group. Then, erase one or two words from the key passage and challenge kids to say the key passage together, filling in the missing words. Continue to erase words until the group says the entire passage together from memory.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, praising God for the Holy Spirit and asking Him to help us share our faith boldly.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

CALLED TO BE BOLD

Write the word **BOLD** in bold letters on a poster and tape it to a wall. Form kids into five groups and provide each group with a Bible and a marker. Assign each group a question and Bible verse. Then lead them to write their answers on the poster.

- What do we boldly proclaim? Ephesians 6:19
- Why do we share the gospel boldly? Acts 4:11-12
- What can we do when we don't feel bold? Acts 4:29
- Who empowers boldness? Acts 4:31
- How does persecution affect boldness? Philippians 1:14

Tell kids that we boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ because He alone saves people from sin. Share that when we pray for boldness, the Holy Spirit empowers us to share our faith. Discuss how even when we face persecution, others are spurred on to be bold for Jesus.