

Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus Acts 4:5-14

Some 5- and 6-year-olds tend to feel little and intimidated when outside their world of family and friends. They feel intimidated by new and uncertain situations—a new Sunday school, a new baby sitter, playing big-kid sports such as soccer or T-ball. Children need to know that God is a source for constant courage. Use this lesson to help children realize that just as God helped Peter be brave and tell others about Jesus, God helps us be brave in all we do, too.



►Bible Point
God helps us be brave.

Key Verse

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will ask God to help them be brave this week.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Learn to Be a Learner Teach each other how to do something.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a trophy has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, trophy or other prize, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put the trophy or other prize inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Brave Belief Be like Peter and bravely say what they believe.	Bible	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Peter's Courage Make a mask shake with fear, and then say a poem about courage.	My Bible Playground, 1 envelope per child, paper clips, tape, scissors, pencils	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Playground student book, and cut out the mouth on each page.
	Center 2: Shakin' Snack Shake a snack and say a fear; then enjoy the snack and say how God helps them be brave.	bowls, cereal, raisins, M&M's, aluminum foil, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	Center 3: Speak Out Record beliefs and speak out for Jesus.	audio recorder, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	Center 4: Fold Away Fear Create a folding picture that shows them being brave.	crayons, 1 copy per child of the 2-sided "Fold Away" handout (at the end of the lesson)	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Brave Prayer Pray about fears they want to give to God.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Earthly Power

Heavenly Power

Powerful Truth

The Jesus Connection

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hurrah!" (track 19), "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "Hurrah!" (track 19 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Encourage kids to join you in singing and doing the motions.



Let's come and sing at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

Let's come and pray at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah! (*pump fists into the air on "hurrah!"*)

The girls will cheer, the boys will shout; (*have girls cheer and boys shout*)

We'll learn what love is all about.

And we'll sing and pray (*fold hands in prayer*)

With our friends at church.

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we'll learn that ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.** Jesus was the bravest person of all when he died on the cross for our sins. Let's worship Jesus by singing our next song.

Lead kids in singing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 6 on the CD). Encourage kids to join you in singing. The first time through, have the girls sing the first phrase and have the boys sing the echo. On the repeat, reverse the parts. Have kids move "freestyle" to the beat.



Jesus loves me; (*echo*)

This I know, (*echo*)

For the Bible (*echo*)

Tells me so. (*echo*)

Little children (*echo*)

To him belong. (*echo*)

They are weak, but (*echo*)

He's so strong! (*echo*)

Jaaayyy! (*J*)

Eeeeeee! (E)
Ssssss! (S)
Uuuuuu! (U)
Ssssss! (S)

And what's that spell? (Jesus!)
And who do you love? (Jesus!)
And who loves you? (Jesus!)
Who died for you? (Jesus!)
And who's your guy? (Jesus!)
The apple of your eye! (Jesus!)
And who's your friend? (Jesus!)
He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Jesus had to be brave on the cross, and ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, too.**
Let's explore bravery some more.

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Learn to Be a Learner

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 14:26, says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). That means that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified version of the Key Verse aloud with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**

Say: **God loves us and wants to teach us more about his love and how to live his way. That's why God sent us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will teach us and help us remember that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

Let's do an activity where we can practice being teachers and learners.

Have kids form a line. Have the first child teach the next child how to do something. It might



Learn to Be a Learner Supplies

Bible



be fishing, or playing the piano, or dancing, or baking cookies. Then have that child teach the next one in line how to do something. And so on through the line.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Afterward, lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Did you like being the Learner or the Teacher more? Why?
- What are some things the Holy Spirit can teach us?

Say: **Today the Holy Spirit will teach us that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

As you say the following phrases, have children respond with the simplified Key Verse.

Say: **Each time you come to church...***(The Holy Spirit will teach you!)*

Each time you hear from the Bible...*(The Holy Spirit will teach you!)*

Each time you practice loving others...*(The Holy Spirit will teach you!)*

.....

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!**

Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the trophy around the circle so the rest of the group can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what they might learn about the Bible today.)

Teacher: Friends, when do we get trophies?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this trophy in the Surprise Box?

Theo: I won this trophy in the 9th Annual Waggiest Tail Competition!

Teacher: Congratulations, Theo! Let's congratulate Theo, kids!

(Pause for kids to congratulate Theo.)

Theo: Thank you, friends!

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet

trophy or other prize
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track
4)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the trophy inside the
Surprise Box, and hide
the box where it's easily
accessible.

Teacher: People get trophies at other times, too!

Theo: They do?

Teacher: Yes, people may get trophies if they win a race or play a musical instrument in front of lots of people in a contest.

Theo: That's great!

Teacher: Today we're going to read about how Peter and John had courage. They deserved a trophy for being brave! Let's find out how ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE!**

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time: Brave Belief

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Acts 4, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Two of Jesus' followers, Peter and John, bravely told people that Jesus had died and then came back to life! Peter and John even healed people. One poor man couldn't walk since he was born. Peter told the man, "In the name of Jesus, walk!" And the man did!**

Have kids form pairs. Have one partner stand and be Peter, and have the other partner sit and be the crippled man.

Say: **Peter told the crippled man, "In the name of Jesus, walk!"** Have Peters say that and then help the partner up to walk a few steps together.

Say: **The healed man was so happy, he jumped up and down with joy! Have everyone jump up and down. He also followed Peter and John as they bravely continued to tell people about Jesus.**

Some rulers and important people weren't happy about Peter and John telling people about Jesus, so they threw them in jail. Have kids act as if they're holding jail cell bars and looking between them.

The next day, Peter and John were brought before the rulers and important people. Have the kids stand quietly with their arms at their sides.

The rulers wanted to know why Peter and John performed miracles and spread the name of Jesus to everyone. They asked, "By what name did you do this?" Have kids raise a fist in the air and repeat the question.

Then the Holy Spirit helped Peter to be brave. Peter told the leaders that it was by the name of Jesus that the crippled man (have kids sit down) was healed! Have kids jump up. **Peter told the leaders that they had crucified Jesus on a cross, but God**



**Bible Time: Brave
Belief
Supplies**

Bible



raised him from the dead. No other name—except Jesus—will save us. Have kids say, “Only Jesus saves us.”

When the people saw Peter and John’s courage, they were amazed. Have kids look amazed and surprised and then sit back down. **Peter and John were ordinary people—just like you and me. But the people realized Peter and John had been with Jesus.**

Say: **Let’s pretend we’re with Peter and John, and let’s take turns saying what we believe about Jesus. Remember, ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE!**

Invite kids, one at a time, to stand in front of the group and tell what they believe, such as “We’ll live forever because of Jesus.”

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about how God helped Peter and John be brave?
- Tell about a time God helped you be brave.

Say: **God helped Peter and John be brave, and ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, too. God wants everyone to know about Jesus, because he wants everyone to live with him forever.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.

■ CENTER 1:

Peter’s Courage

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Some people say that when we’re afraid, we “shake with fear.” Let’s make our pages show how Peter might’ve been afraid and “shook with fear.”** Pause and have kids show how Peter might’ve looked when he was afraid.

Center 1: Peter’s Courage Supplies

My Bible Playground
1 envelope per child
paper clips
tape
scissors
pencils

Center 1: Peter’s Courage Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
9 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book, and cut
out the mouth on each
page.

Say: **But God helped Peter be brave!** Pause and have kids show how Peter might've looked when God helped him.

Let each child put a handful of paper clips into an envelope and seal it.

Say: **Tape the envelope to the back of the page at the top.**

Teach kids the poem that follows. Then encourage them to hold their pages to their faces as masks, and have each child repeat the poem through the open mouth on the page. Each time children say "scared" or "shiver and shake," have them rattle their pages in fear. On "brave," have them hold their pages still.

**Even though Peter might have been scared,
Still he dared
To be brave for Jesus!
Even though I may shiver and shake,
Lord, please make
Me brave for Jesus.**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What does it mean to be brave?**
- **What can we do to be brave like Peter was?**

Say: **God helped Peter be brave, and ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, too. We need to be like Peter and tell everyone about Jesus!**

Have kids tell one another the Bible Point as they speak through their masks.

CENTER 2:

Shakin' Snack

What You'll Do

Say: **We're going to shake our fears away! Are you ready? Let's go!**

Have children clean their hands; then let them each combine cereal, raisins, and M&M's in a bowl. Help kids cover their bowls tightly with aluminum foil.

Say: **Tell us something you're afraid of, something that makes you "shake" with fear.** Have kids shake their bowls while they tell you.

When the snack has been mixed, pray, and let kids eat it while you ask these questions.



Center 2: Shakin' Snack Supplies

.....
bowls
cereal
raisins
M&M's
aluminum foil
antibacterial gel
(optional)

 **ALLERGY
ALERT**



Speak Out Supplies

CD player
audio recorder
Teacher Pack
CD: "God Helps Us"
(track 21)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you do when you're afraid?
- What can God help us do when we're afraid?

Say: **It's okay to be scared, but if we ask him ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

■ CENTER 3:

Speak Out



■ **Tip** Most smartphones have a "Voice Memos" app that lets you record right into the phone and then play it back.

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Peter was brave when he told people about Jesus!**

Let each child have a turn recording something he or she believes about Jesus, such as "Jesus is God's Son" or "Jesus loves everyone." After everyone has recorded a belief, have kids sing this song and record it as well. When they've finished, play back the messages.

Sing "God Helps Us" (track 21 on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."



God helps us to be brave.

God helps us to be brave.

Hey, ho, we all should know,

God helps us to be brave.

(Repeat 2x.)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was recording this song like for you?
- What are things you do at church that may scare you?

Say: **We can depend on God. God helped Peter be brave, and ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, too!**

CENTER 4:

Fold Away Fear

What You'll Do

Say: **We're going to fold away our fears by making two "doors."**

Give each child one of the papers. Have them follow your instructions to make two "doors" that meet in the center of the paper.

Say: **Fold the paper on the two dotted lines, so that the two sides meet in the center of the paper.** Allow time.

Say: **While everyone is afraid of something, God can help all of us be brave no matter what we face.**

Have kids close the "doors" on their papers and draw something they're afraid of on the outside. As kids finish this drawing, say: **Open the "doors" and draw a picture on the inside of yourself being brave!**

Read the words on the page to children, and have kids each add their name in the space provided. Assist any children who need help with writing.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why is it important to be brave?**
- **Tell about a time God helped you be brave.**

Say: **Everyone has fears. Some people are afraid of the dark, some are afraid of bees, and some are afraid to meet new people. Whenever we feel afraid, we can ask for God's help. No matter what happens, we can remember that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

5

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to the circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.



Fold Away Fear Supplies

crayons

1 copy per child of the 2-sided "Fold Away" handout (at the end of the lesson)

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground



Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE. Choose one of these Daily Challenges about being brave to do this week.**

Give kids these three challenges to choose from:

1. **Tell each person in your family one thing you're afraid of, and then tell them that God helps us be brave.**
2. **Draw a picture of something that makes you afraid, and then ask God to help you be brave.**
3. **Be brave and tell a friend about Jesus. With God's help, you can do anything!**

Say: **If you want to tell people in your family what you're afraid of, circle choice number 1. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 2. If you want to tell a friend about Jesus, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Brave Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have kids tell you things that frighten them, such as going to bed in the dark or standing in front of a group of people.

Pray: **Dear God, we give you our fears...** Have kids mention fears they want to give to God.

Then have everyone repeat each of these last lines after you:

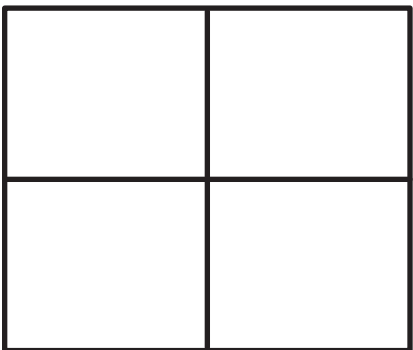
**Thank you, God,
For helping us be brave.
In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

“Fold Away” Handout



OK
TO COPY

Spring Quarter

Lesson 9

Pre-K & K/Ages 5 & 6

God Helps

Be Brave