



# Apostles Defend Their Faith

Acts 5:12-42

Your children will easily understand the concept of telling others about Jesus. Five- and six-year-olds are aware of many different ways we communicate. They may have spoken with others; talked on the phone; sent or received a postcard or letter; or, with the help of an adult, emailed or texted a friend or relative. Help your children understand that our actions also tell others about Jesus. The way we act, particularly when things don't go the way we expect them to, shows people how much we care about loving others and being like Jesus.



### ► Bible Point

Tell others about Jesus.

### Key Verse

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).


### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will tell others about Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Powerful Prayer</b> Consider the power of prayer.	Bible	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a card or letter has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, card, envelope <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Put a card in the envelope; then place the envelope in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time</b> Pretend to be the apostles and tell others about Jesus.	Bible, CD player, balloons <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Phone a Friend About Jesus</b> Create a make-believe cell phone, and tell class friends about Jesus.</p>	My Bible Playground, alphabet cereal, plate, scissors, pencils	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p><b>Center 2: Sweet Angels</b> Make a sweet angel-shaped snack to use in retelling the Bible story.</p>	1 sugar cone and 1 large marshmallow per child	
	<p><b>Center 3: Communicating for Jesus</b> Use blocks to make communication devices, and tell others about Jesus.</p>	connecting blocks	
	<p><b>Center 4: Little Disciples</b> Hear a rhyme, and use figures of children to tell a story.</p>	CD player, felt <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, Children Figures, hook and loop 	Remove the Children Figures and the self-stick hook and loop from the Teacher Pack. Pull apart the 10 cards, cut the strip of hook and loop into 10 half-inch pieces, and attach a piece of hook and loop to the back of each figure. Set out two large pieces of felt (9x12-inch), and have kids work in two groups of five children each.
<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p><b>"Use Me, God" Prayer</b> Say a prayer with motions about sharing Jesus with others.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





# Apostles Defend Their Faith

Acts 5:12-42

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## The Jailed Apostles, Miraculously Freed, Return to the Temple

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As described in Acts 4, Peter and John had been brought before the Sanhedrin for questioning and told to stop teaching in the name of Jesus. Frustrated but finding no reason to punish them, the Sanhedrin had to let them go. Now, after performing more miraculous signs and arousing more excitement among the people, all of the apostles were brought in and locked up overnight. The Sanhedrin likely intended to punish them the next day. However, the next morning, the doors and gates to the cell were still securely locked, but the prisoners were gone. Rather than accept the supernatural release of the apostles, the authorities apparently concluded that someone in the Temple police was a sympathizer and had freed the prisoners.

When the apostles were approached in the Temple court again, no force was used to bring them back to the meeting of the Sanhedrin. Had the apostles wanted to resist, the support of the crowd would have made it difficult for the religious leaders to bring them in. But the apostles didn't resist. Notice that the high priest didn't even want to utter the name of Jesus. Perhaps the high priest was afraid that the apostles would make him and the Sanhedrin look guilty for the death of Jesus. His guilt was haunting him, and he was becoming paranoid about the disciples' motives.

## Gamaliel Advises the Sanhedrin to Let the Apostles Go

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Peter, responding for all the apostles, was very clear. Members of the Sanhedrin couldn't disagree with the principle; they just disagreed over what it meant to obey God. Mistaken as they were, they thought they were obeying God.

Gamaliel's response to the Sanhedrin was wise. After reminding the Sanhedrin of two people who had commanded followings and later faded away, he

advised the Sanhedrin to leave the apostles alone. He said that if what the apostles were doing was simply self-manufactured it would go nowhere, but if it was of God, even the Sanhedrin wouldn't be able to stop it.

## The Jesus Connection

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The Holy Spirit is sometimes described as a "deposit" assuring that God will make good on his promises of what is yet to come. The Holy Spirit guides, convicts, and inspires us as we grow in our relationship with Jesus.

God has given his own Spirit to live in you, making you alive, animating your soul, giving you his very essence. Pray that God will help you feel fully alive. You can write your prayer here.

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### Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to God's House" (track 7)

### Powerful Prayer Supplies

Bible

## 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. Play "Welcome to God's House" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" and lead children in doing the motions.

**With arms open wide, Jesus greets you.** (*Spread arms out.*)  
**He's so glad to see you today.** (*Shake a neighbor's hand.*)  
**Say "hi" to a friend right beside you.** (*Continue shaking hands.*)  
**Let's learn and let's sing and let's pray.** (*Turn around once.*)

**Come on in.** (*Motion to come.*)  
**Have a seat.** (*Sit down.*)  
**Welcome to God's house today.**  
**Come on in.** (*Motion to come.*)  
**Have a seat.** (*Sit down.*)  
**Welcome to God's house today!**

(Repeat.)

## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### Powerful Prayer

#### What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to James 5:16, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible is found in James 5:16. It says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." This means that prayer is powerful.**





Lead children in saying the adapted version of the Key Verse together: **Prayer is powerful.** Help children think of powerful people. This might include people who are physically strong, as well as authority figures.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do these people have the power to do?
- Even though these people have power, what are things they can't do?
- Do you have to have strong muscles to pray?
- Do you have to be an important person to pray?
- Tell about a time when God answered your prayer.

Say: **The Bible tells us that prayer is powerful. This means that when we talk to God, God listens and hears us. Then God decides how to answer our prayers.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse one more time, and then pray together, thanking God for hearing prayers and using them to change lives.

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Theo's News

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 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 our Bible story.

**Theo:** I found something very interesting! I hid it in the Surprise Box.

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

*(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have kids pass the envelope around the circle. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)*

**Teacher:** Have any of you ever sent a card or letter to someone? Who did you send it to? What did you tell that person?

*(Pause as children respond.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hide an envelope in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** You know how we send letters to people to tell them about things that happen? Well, Jesus' disciples didn't have post offices to send letters, but they were still able to

► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**

**Teacher:** Let's find out how they told others about Jesus.

**Theo:** I have to go now. Have a good time today, boys and girls!



#### Theo's News Supplies

- CD player
- Surprise Box (any box will do)
- Theo puppet card envelope
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Here, Theo" (track 3)

#### Theo's News Easy Prep

Put a card in the envelope; then place the envelope in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





## Bible Time Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
balloons  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Tell About Jesus"  
(track 13)

### **! BALLOON WARNING**

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

**Teacher:** Let's 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

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Acts 5:12-42, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story says we can ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**

**Our Bible story today is about Jesus' closest disciples who were called the apostles. The apostles were 12 men who had traveled with Jesus, learned from Jesus, and had known him as their closest friend. We have heard about some of these men, including Peter, James, and John. The apostles told everyone about their friend, Jesus. After Jesus died, came back to life, and went back to heaven, the apostles continued to tell people about Jesus, God's Son.**

**Let's pretend we're Jesus' best friends, the apostles. Everyone stand up and tell two people something you know about Jesus. Then come back and sit down. The apostles loved to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. They told people things like "Jesus loves you," "Jesus can help you," "Jesus can change you if you let him," "Jesus died for you," and "Jesus is alive!" People came from far away to hear the apostles tell about Jesus. And when sick people came to hear about Jesus, God healed them.**

**One day some bad men in Jerusalem had the apostles arrested and put in jail because the apostles told others about Jesus. But that didn't stop the apostles from loving Jesus and telling others about Jesus.**

Clear a large area in your classroom for this game. Have children form three groups. Tell one group to be the Apostles and stand in a huddle in the middle of the room. Have the second group of kids pretend to be the Jail Guards and stand in a circle around the Apostles. Tell the Jail Guards not to let the Apostles escape. Have the last group of kids pretend to be the Townspeople who want to know about Jesus.

Give the Apostles three to five inflated balloons, and instruct them to hold the balloons until the music starts. Tell kids that the balloons represent words leaving our mouths to tell others about Jesus. As the class sings the song, have the Apostles bop the balloons to the other kids as if they're telling others about Jesus.

Begin the CD and lead the children in singing "Tell About Jesus" (track 13 on the CD) to the tune of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."



**I can tell about Jesus. Yes, I can.**  
**I can tell about Jesus. Yes, I can.**  
**I can tell about Jesus. Yes, I can.**  
**I can tell about him anywhere.**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

When the song ends, stop the CD. Have kids gather in their groups, and then ask the following questions.

Ask:

- **Did the apostles stop telling people about Jesus even after they had been put in jail? Why or why not?**
- **Who caught the messages (or balloons) and heard about Jesus?**

Say: **Even though the bad men thought they could stop the apostles from telling others about Jesus, God had another plan! During the night, God sent an angel to open the jail and set the apostles free without the soldiers seeing them. Let's continue to act out the Bible story.**

Have the Apostles and the Townspeople lie down and pretend to sleep. Turn off your classroom lights. Have the Jail Guards continue to stand with their backs to the Apostles and facing the Townspeople. Choose a child to play the part of the Angel, and tell the Guards to pretend they don't see the Angel. Have the Angel quietly wake up the Apostles and lead them out of the jail without the Guards noticing. Instruct the Guards to look the other direction and pretend not to notice. When all the Apostles are out of jail, bring the children together to conclude the Bible story.

Ask:

- **Why do you think God wanted the apostles out of jail?**

Say: **When the angel brought the apostles safely out of jail, he told them to go to the Temple courts and continue to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**

**The next day the bad men went to the jail. When they looked inside the jail, they didn't see anyone. The apostles were gone, but the jail was still locked up tight! The men couldn't understand how this had happened! When they heard that the apostles were back in the Temple telling the people about Jesus, they sent the guards after the apostles again. But all the bad men could do was beat the apostles, tell them again to stop talking about Jesus, and then let the apostles go.**

Ask:

- **Do you think the apostles stopped telling others about Jesus? Why or why not?**

Say: **The apostles knew that it was more important to obey God and tell others about Jesus than to keep silent. We all know about Jesus today because the apostles chose to obey God and ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**





### Center 1: Phone a Friend About Jesus Supplies

My Bible Playground  
alphabet cereal  
plate  
pencils

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Center 1: Phone a Friend About Jesus Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

Ask:

- **What are some ways you can tell others about Jesus this week?**

Let the children brainstorm ways they've seen or heard others tell about Jesus, such as on TV, on the radio, at church, at a park, or by singing, acting out a Bible story, using a telephone, or sending a card or email message to someone.

## 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:

## Phone a Friend About Jesus

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 6 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their pages. Point out the alphabet cereal, let kids search through the cereal to find the letters that spell "Jesus," and have kids place the letters onto the cell phone's screen. Then encourage kids to play in pairs or trios and pretend to call a friend to tell about Jesus. Let kids eat the cereal.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How did the disciples tell others about Jesus?**
- **What are some things you might tell someone about Jesus?**

Say: **The disciples used their mouths to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. We can use our mouths, use telephones, or tell others about Jesus in many other ways. This week, ask your parents if you can call a friend and tell him or her something you know about Jesus.**





**CENTER 2:**

## Sweet Angels

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Give each child a sugar cone (with a pointed end) and a large marshmallow. Have children press their marshmallows onto the pointed tips of their cones to make angels. Let children retell the story of the apostles being set free from jail by an angel before they eat their snack.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think the apostles felt like when they saw an angel there to set them free?
- The apostles were glad they were free so they could ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.** Who is someone you can tell about Jesus?

**CENTER 3:**

## Communicating for Jesus

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Place small connecting blocks in a manipulative center for children to creatively make communication devices. Encourage the children to make telephones, walkie-talkies, radios, or computers out of the blocks and pretend to ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some ways we can tell others about Jesus?
- Have you ever used any of those ways to tell someone about Jesus? Explain.

Say: **There are so many ways we can ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.** Think of a way this week to share Jesus with others.

**Center 2: Sweet Angels Supplies**

1 sugar cone and 1 large marshmallow per child

**! ALLERGY ALERT**

**Center 3: Communicating for Jesus Supplies**

connecting blocks





#### Center 4: Little Disciples Supplies

CD player  
felt

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Little Disciples"  
(track 14)  
Children Figures  
hook and loop

#### Center 4: Little Disciples Easy Prep

Remove the Children Figures and the self-stick hook and loop from the Teacher Pack. Pull apart the 10 cards, cut the strip of hook and loop into 10 half-inch pieces, and attach a piece of hook and loop to the back of each figure. Set out two large pieces of felt (9x12-inch), and have kids work in two groups of five children each.

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

### CENTER 4:

## Little Disciples

### What You'll Do

Cue the CD to "Little Disciples" (track 14 on the CD), and encourage kids to listen carefully to the rhyme. Have kids place the figures on the felt when the rhyme mentions a particular figure. (Children should start with the figure of the boy with "#1" on his shirt.)

**One little disciple meets a friend at the zoo.  
He says, "Jesus loves you," and that makes two.  
Two little disciples meet a friend at the sea.  
They say, "Jesus saves you," and now there are three.  
Three little disciples knock on a friend's door.  
They shout, "Jesus helps you," and that makes it four.  
Four little disciples take a friend for a drive.  
They whisper, "Jesus changes you," and now there are five.  
Five little disciples meet lots and lots of friends.  
They share the love of Jesus, so the story never ends.**

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did the children in the rhyme tell their friends?
- How can you be like the children in the rhyme?
- How do you feel when you share Jesus with others?

Say: **We can be disciples, too. We can ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

### What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

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 to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.





## Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that we can ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.** I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to tell others about Jesus.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. Ask a parent to help you bring your neighbor some cookies, and tell him or her about Jesus.
2. Read Acts 5:12-42 with a parent, and discuss ways you can tell others about Jesus.
3. Tell a friend who doesn't know Jesus why you believe in Jesus.

Say: If you want to bring cookies to your neighbor, circle choice number 1. If you want to read the Bible with a parent, circle choice number 2. If you want to tell a friend about Jesus, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. 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!

## “Use Me, God” Prayer

### What You'll Do

Lead the children in saying the following prayer with motions.

Dear God,

Help me use my eyes to see *(point to eyes),*

Someone who needs Jesus, just like me. *(Point to someone and then to self.)*

Help me use my mouth to speak *(point to mouth)*

Words about Jesus; he's so neat! *(Point up to heaven.)*

Help me use my ears to hear *(point to ears)*

People who need Jesus, far and near. *(Point around in a sweeping motion.)*

Help me, God, to use my hands for good *(hold up hands and wiggle fingers),*

Showing others about Jesus, just as I should. *(Hold hands out with palms up.)*

In Jesus' name, amen.

## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout 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](http://group.com/digital).



