

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

Fifth- and sixth-graders might not know much about courage, beyond comic books and superhero movies. But there’s a difference between “holy courage” and “common courage.” Part of common courage is trying unusual and new things. But holy courage—telling people about Jesus and living for God—is something that many kids feel is beyond their grasp. As you teach this lesson, help them understand that God wants to give them courage to do the extraordinary.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Transformers</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Transform cardboard boxes and discuss big changes.	1 cardboard box per 4 kids, several pairs of scissors, markers	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>One Man’s Bravery</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Explore Peter’s life before and after God gave him courage to witness for him.	Bibles	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



► **Bible Point**  
Trusting God makes us brave.

**Key Verse**  
“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Preteens will trust God for courage as they face tough situations in their lives.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Front Line Transformation</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Role-play situations in which they'll need courage.	Bible Buzz, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
	<b>Personal Transformation</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Draw or write and discuss situations in which they've demonstrated courage.	Bible Buzz, pens	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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

# Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus

Acts 4:5-14

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Earthly Power

---

The Sanhedrin was the ruling body of the Jews. It had authority in all religious matters. One of the Sanhedrin's duties was to deal with cases of blasphemy. Members of the Sanhedrin probably viewed Peter's and John's actions as blasphemy. Peter and John claimed that they were able to heal a man—something only God could do—through the power of Jesus. So they called Peter and John before them.

## Heavenly Power

---

When asked the source of his power to heal, Peter replied that the power came from Jesus, whom God had raised from the dead. The Sanhedrin had tried to cover up the Resurrection (Matthew 28:11-15), but Peter contended that the healed man standing before them proved that Jesus is alive.

The disabled man was healed through Jesus' power, and Peter's forceful speech before this powerful group of religious leaders was made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8). God was with Peter in a special way, as Jesus had promised he would be when people were going about his work (Matthew 28:20).

## Powerful Truth

---

Why didn't the Sanhedrin immediately denounce Peter and John? Perhaps the truth, told with such power, dumbfounded them—or even convinced them of what they really had done.

In verse 12, Peter indirectly heaps on more accusation. By saying that salvation is only through Jesus, Peter was saying the leaders' beliefs and actions were insufficient for that purpose. He was saying that if they continued to deny Jesus, no other power was available to save them. If they continued

along this course, they were also leading their nation toward destruction.

What was the Sanhedrin's response? Astonishment! How could these simple men, with no training in the Jewish rabbinical schools, mount such a clear and convincing biblical and theological argument? They may have remembered the similar things they had thought about Jesus (John 7:15). Jesus had supported his claims through the miracles he had performed, and now the disciples had done the same. Everyone had seen the disabled man begging at the Temple, and now he stood before them, healed. What could they say? The Sanhedrin had no answer.

## The Jesus Connection

---

Two things gave Peter courage in this intimidating situation. First, he was relying on the Holy Spirit, and second, he knew that Jesus is alive. This knowledge gave Peter full and ultimate trust in Jesus.

We have the same Holy Spirit that empowered Peter. What more do we need to be courageous in the situations we face today? Ask God to help you with a particular situation you're facing. You can write your prayer here.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Transformers Supplies

1 cardboard box per 4  
kids  
several pairs of scissors  
markers

### One Man's Bravery Supplies

Bibles

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Transformers

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids form groups of four. Distribute scissors, markers, and one box to each group.

Say: **Today we're going to talk about transformation. Look at the box you have and dream a bit. What do you think this box could become if someone radically transformed it? I'll give you several minutes to work in your groups to transform your boxes.**

Give groups five minutes to work on their boxes. Then have groups show their transformed boxes to everyone.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Have your transformed boxes stopped being boxes? Why or why not?
- What kinds of things are regularly transformed in our world?
- Why do things get transformed?

Say: **Not only can things be transformed, but people can be transformed, too. We can go from weak to strong. We can go from lazy to active. And we can go from being scared to being brave. Let's learn how ► TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE.**

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### One Man's Bravery

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **When we trust God, his power changes us into brave Christians. He changes us so we can have the courage we need to do something awesome for him.**

Have kids form four groups, and give each group a Bible. Explain that you're going to assign two groups to read Matthew 26:69-75. One group will prepare a skit that shows Peter as he really acted, and the other a skit as if Peter were brave. The other groups



will read and prepare a skit from Acts 4:5-14. One group will do the passage as if Peter were scared, and the other showing him brave like he was. Give groups five minutes to prepare their skits, and then have groups present the skits for everyone. Alternate groups showing scared Peter and brave Peter, with the scared groups tagging in the brave groups to redo their skits.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did Peter's actions before he was transformed show about his trust in God?
- How did Peter's trust in God change after his transformation?
- How did trusting in God make Peter brave?
- What was the result of Peter's courage?

Say: **Imagine going from feeling like you totally let God down to totally trusting in him. This change helps us understand that we can trust in God and be brave, too. Peter's trust had powerful effects on the situation that you read about in Acts. God gives us the same bravery he gave Peter. ► TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE. When we're scared, trusting God can transform us just as it did for Peter. Let's explore ways we could use bravery in our lives.**



## 3

### WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Front Line Transformation

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute this week's Bible Buzz pages, and have kids form pairs. Assign each pair one of the situations from the "Conflict With Courage" section. Instruct pairs to come up with a response for that situation and then practice presenting that response between the two of them. Then have kids swap partners, give pairs a different scenario, and have them come up with a response for that, too. Mix up pairs and scenarios one more time so kids try three different scenarios with three different people.

Have kids find the Key Verse, Joshua 1:9, on their Bible Buzz pages, and ask a willing preteen to read it aloud: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Say: **Let's learn a song based on this Key Verse that affirms the courage God gives us.**

Distribute copies of the lyrics, and play "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 13 on the CD).

### Front Line Transformation Supplies

- Bible Buzz
- CD player
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 13)

### Front Line Transformation Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.





**Have I not commanded you?**  
**Be strong and courageous.**  
**Do not be terrified;**  
**Do not be discouraged,**  
**For the Lord your God will be with you**  
**Wherever you go.**  
**Wherever you go.**  
*(Repeat twice.)*

**Wherever you go.**  
**Wherever you go.**  
**Wherever you go.**

“Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you demonstrate bravery in your responses?
- Which one did you think was the toughest to deal with? Explain.

Say: **Having a relationship with Jesus takes courage—not just so it’s easier to stand up to others, but so we can do great things for God. ► TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE and gives us courage to do what’s right—just like Peter did.**

## Personal Transformation

### What You’ll Do

Say: **When Peter was transformed, he discovered the importance of trusting God. Peter received courage when he trusted God before the Sanhedrin. When God transforms us, we learn to trust him more. ► TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE. Let’s stop and consider: What changes has God made in your life? How have you trusted God through those changes? How have you received courage?**

Have kids find a place alone in the meeting room. Distribute pens, and direct them to the “Radical Transformation” section in their Bible Buzz pages. Have kids write or draw about a time they felt that God had transformed them to do something courageous for him. When kids have finished, have them get together in groups of three and read their stories or share their drawings with one another.

### Personal Transformation Supplies

Bible Buzz  
pens



**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you trust in God in your situation?
- How did trusting in God give you courage?
- After hearing these stories, what can courage help us do?
- What’s something you’d like courage to do in your life this week?

Say: **We all have situations in which we can choose to be brave—just like Peter did. But we don’t have to do it alone. ► TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE, so let’s choose trust and bravery.**

**4** LASTING IMPRESSIONS

**Daily Challenges**

**What You’ll Do** ■■■■

Say: **Let’s think this week about how ► TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE.**

Have kids find this week’s Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Show bravery by serving someone you don’t get along with. Offer to return his or her tray after lunch, or sit down with that person for five minutes to get to know him or her better. Remember to trust God for courage.**
- **Forgive someone who hurt you. You don’t have to expect anything in return, but just reach out in grace and love. Remember to trust God for courage.**
- **Remember to trust God for courage in something you’re already facing that’s unique to your life. Maybe you need to stand up for your faith where you haven’t before, or you might need to serve God in a special way.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Today we’ve talked about how ► TRUSTING GOD MAKES US BRAVE. Peter trusted God and did something brave by telling the Sanhedrin about Jesus. Let’s trust God this week by following through with our Daily Challenges.**

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Buzz



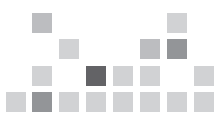
## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how trusting God makes us brave. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families! Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids. Allow kids to silently ask God to give them opportunities to trust him more.





**Lyrics** ■■■■

## “Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9)

Have I not commanded you?  
Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be terrified;  
Do not be discouraged,  
For the Lord your God will be with you  
Wherever you go.  
Wherever you go.  
*(Repeat twice.)*

**Wherever you go.**  
**Wherever you go.**  
**Wherever you go.**

“Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



**! OK**  
**■ TO COPY**



