



Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus

Acts 4:5-14

For infants, toddlers, and 2-year-olds, the world is filled with new things to discover, new things to explore, and new things to accomplish. Repetition is an exciting part of their world. When children fall down, encourage them to get up and try again. Let them know that God will help them to be brave when they try again. By the time they become 2 and 3 years old, children will begin to tell you, “No, me do it!” Allow them opportunities to try new things and to explore and discover that God helps them be brave.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Roly-Poly Rhyme Exercise little arms and legs as they hear a rhyme.		
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Peekaboo Peter Play a game with a puppet.	copy of the “God Helps Us” page (at the end of the lesson), scissors, tape, scarf	Cut out the Peter finger puppet from the handout.
	Stay Strong Play a game of strength.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

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



► 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 understand that they can look to God to help them be brave and strong.



TODDLER


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Scared Peter Hear the Bible passage in rhyme and make motions.	Bible Teacher Pack: "Peter and John in the Temple" teaching picture	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Rescue the Babies Look for stuffed animals hiding in boxes.	1 stuffed animal per child, 2 or more boxes, blanket	
	Brave and Strong Use finger puppets to retell what happened.	1 copy per child of the "God Helps Us" page (at the end of the lesson), scissors, tape	Cut out the finger puppets from each handout.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Sing or listen to praise songs.	CD player, blocks Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Peter and John Say the words “Be brave” as they learn what happened.	Bible Teacher Pack: “Peter and John in the Temple” teaching picture	
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Flashlight Fun Use flashlights to explore darkness.	cutting blade, large box, tape, 2 flashlights	Cut holes in various places on four sides of a very large box or a few average-size boxes. Tape the lids closed. If a box doesn’t have a lid, turn it upside down so that no light shines through the top.
	Texture Test Bravely feel for a treat inside a bag.	paper strips, wrapped treats, gift bag, scissors	Cut and crumple strips of paper. Place them in a gift bag, and hide small wrapped treats among the papers.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

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.

[illegible]



INFANT

1

GETTING
STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "I'll Be Brave" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "Deep and Wide" anytime during the lesson.



I'll be brave,
I'll be strong,
'Cause Jesus is with me all day long.
I'll be brave,
I'll be strong,
'Cause Jesus is with me all day long.
(Repeat.)

Afterward, say: ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

Sing "God Gave the Holy Spirit" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" anytime during the lesson. Follow the motions as you sing.



God gave us the Holy Spirit, (move the baby's hands back and forth in wavelike motions)
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit. (continue to move the baby's hands in wavelike motions)
God gave us the Holy Spirit (point up; then move the baby's hands back and forth in wavelike motions)
To always be with us. (put the baby's arms around himself or herself)

Afterward, say: ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

2

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Roly-Poly Rhyme

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hold the baby in your lap (or lay baby on his or her back on a blanket on the floor) and tell the Bible lesson as an action rhyme.

Sing and Celebrate
Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "I'll Be Brave"
(track 12)



Peekaboo Peter Supplies

.....
copy of the “God Helps
Us” page (at the end of
the lesson)
scissors
tape
scarf

Peekaboo Peter Easy Prep

.....
Cut out the Peter
finger puppet from the
handout.

Roly-poly tumble-e-dee, (*gently roll baby from side to side*)

Peter told of Jesus, you see. (*gently move baby’s arms and legs up and down, and then in and out*)

Roly-poly tumble-e-doo, (*gently move baby’s arms and legs up and down, and then in and out*)

Jesus said, “Be brave.” Can you? (*put index finger on baby’s tummy and tickle*)

Roly-poly tumble-e-doe, (*gently move baby’s arms and legs up and down, and then in and out*)

I can be brave ’cause Jesus says so. (*lift baby’s arms up in the air*)

Say: **God is helping you grow stronger each day. Someday you will be a brave follower of Jesus. ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

.....

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Peekaboo Peter

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Tape the Peter finger puppet from a “God Helps Us” page to fit around your finger. Hold the Peter finger puppet in front of a baby, and put a scarf over the puppet. Sing “Where Is Peter?” to the tune of “Frère Jacques”:

🎵 **Where is Peter? Where is Peter?**

Here he is. Here he is. (*pull the scarf off the puppet*)

Will he tell of Jesus?

Will he tell of Jesus?

Yes, he’s strong. Yes, he’s brave.

Say: **God helped Peter be strong and brave. ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

Stay Strong

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Lay a baby who is 3 months old or older on his or her back in front of you. Place your index fingers in the palms of the baby’s hands, and put your thumbs over the top of baby’s hands. Slowly and gently raise the baby by his or her hands to a seated or standing position. (If the baby isn’t yet able to sit up in a booster or high chair, he or she isn’t developmentally ready for this activity.)

Say: **What a strong, brave baby you are growing up to be! ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**



Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Sing “I’ll Be Brave” (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of “Deep and Wide” anytime during the lesson. Encourage toddlers to do the motions with you.

🎵 **I’ll be brave,** (*put hands on hips and look proud*)
I’ll be strong, (*make a muscle*)
’Cause Jesus is with me all day long. (*hug self*)
I’ll be brave, (*put hands on hips and look proud*)
I’ll be strong, (*make a muscle*)
’Cause Jesus is with me all day long. (*hug self*)
(Repeat.)

Afterward, say: ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

Sing “God Gave the Holy Spirit” (not on the CD) to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb” anytime during the lesson. Hold a child in your lap with his or her back to you so that your arms reach around to guide his or her hands. This will create a stronger connection to the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit at the end of the song.

🎵 **God gave us the Holy Spirit,** (*move the child’s hands back and forth in wavelike motions*)
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit. (*continue to move the child’s hands in wavelike motions*)
God gave us the Holy Spirit (*point up; then move the child’s hands back and forth in wavelike motions*)
To always be with us. (*put the child’s arms around himself or herself*)



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
“Growing With Jesus”
page (at the end of the
lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
9 pages from each
My Bible Snuggles
student book.

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: “I’ll Be Brave”
(track 12)





Scared Peter Supplies

Bible

Teacher Pack

"Peter and John in the Temple" teaching picture

Rescue the Babies Supplies

1 stuffed animal per child
2 or more boxes
blanket

2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Scared Peter

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Acts 4. Show children the words and tell them the Bible is God's special book. Hold up the teaching picture "Peter and John in the Temple" from the Teacher Pack. Point out the people in the picture as you tell what happened and model the following actions:

Peter was afraid to talk. (*shiver as if scared*)

He healed a man and made him walk. (*stand up and walk in place*)

The rulers of the land did frown; (*put hands on hips and make a mad face*)

They didn't want them in their town. (*shake finger and point away*)

God helped Peter to be brave. (*point up, and then make a muscle*)

He stood up and said, "Only God can save." (*stand up*)

God helped Peter so long ago (*tap the picture of Peter*)

And God will help me, too, I know. (*point to self with thumb and nod head*)

Say: **The Bible tells us about many brave people. You can be a brave follower of Jesus, too. ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Rescue the Babies

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have a small stuffed animal for each child to "rescue" and two or three open boxes or laundry baskets. Have children turn around and close their eyes while you put all the animals in the boxes and cover the boxes with a blanket. When you are finished, give a small cry.

Say: **The animals are afraid.** Have the children respond by saying, "Be brave!" Then have them run and get a stuffed animal. Have the children bring the toys back to the starting place to cuddle, hug, and kiss them. Repeat the game.

Say: **We can be brave followers of Jesus. ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**



Brave and Strong

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a set of the finger puppets. Help the children tape one puppet on each index finger. Say: **Peter told John, "Be brave." John told Peter, "Be strong."** Have the children say the words "Be brave" and "Be strong" as they wiggle their finger puppets.

Say: ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE!**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.

2-YEAR-OLD

1

GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "I'll Be Brave" (track 12 on the CD) to the tune of "Deep and Wide" anytime during the lesson. Encourage children to follow the motions as you lead.



I'll be brave, (*put hands on hips and look proud*)

I'll be strong, (*make a muscle*)

'Cause Jesus is with me all day long. (*hug self*)

I'll be brave, (*put hands on hips and look proud*)

I'll be strong, (*make a muscle*)

'Cause Jesus is with me all day long. (*hug self*)

(Repeat.)

Afterward, say: ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

Sing "God Gave the Holy Spirit" (not on the CD) to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" anytime during the lesson. Have children sit in a circle. Give each child a block to give to a friend sitting nearby as you sing the word *gave*. This will reinforce children's understanding of giving and connect it with God giving us the Holy Spirit. Likewise, as you sing the words *with us*, have the children scoot closer to each other or toward you.



Brave and Strong Supplies

1 copy per child of the
"God Helps Us" page
(at the end of the
lesson)
scissors
tape

Brave and Strong Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9
pages from each My
Bible Snuggles student
book. Cut out the finger
puppets from each
handout.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1
copy per child of the
"Growing With Jesus"
page (at the end of the
lesson)

Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
blocks
Teacher Pack
CD: "I'll Be Brave"
(track 12)





Peter and John Supplies

Bible

Teacher Pack


“Peter and John in the Temple” teaching picture

Flashlight Fun Supplies

cutting blade, large box, tape, 2 flashlights

Flashlight Fun Easy Prep

Cut holes in various places on four sides of a very large box or a few average-size boxes. Tape the lids closed. If a box doesn't have a lid, turn it upside down so that no light shines through the top.

 God gave us the Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.
God gave us the Holy Spirit
To always be with us.

Afterward, say: ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Peter and John

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Acts 4. Show children the words and tell them the Bible is God's special book. Hold up the teaching picture “Peter and John in the Temple.” Have children say “Be brave” every time you come to a place in the passage below when someone is afraid.

Say: **Here is Peter, and here is John.** Point to Peter and then John. **One day Peter and John were in a town called Jerusalem. Peter told lots of people about Jesus. Sometimes Peter and John might have been afraid.** Direct the children to say “Be brave.”

Peter and John saw a man who couldn't walk, but God said, “Don't be afraid. Have children say “Be brave.” I will make him walk. Just pray to me.” So Peter prayed and then bravely said, “Get up and walk. God has healed you.” The man got up and walked! He was so excited that he began telling all the other people about Jesus.

There were some very important men in the town who didn't like Peter and John telling people about Jesus, so they put them in jail. Have children say “Be brave.” Peter and John prayed, and God helped them be brave and strong. God let them get out of jail so they could tell even more people about him. ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, just as God helped Peter to be brave.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Flashlight Fun

What You'll Do

Let each child shine a flashlight through the holes to look inside the box. You could put a large toy inside the box or have a child hide inside for the other children to find with their flashlights. Let children see that the darkness disappears when they shine their





flashlights through the holes. Remind children that God can “shine” away our fears so that we can be brave and strong.

Say: ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE!**

Texture Test

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Tell children you have something special for them, but they have to be brave to get it. Encourage the children to reach into the bag without knowing what's inside, but if a child is hesitant, show him or her that treats are hidden inside the bag. Say encouraging words such as “Be strong!” or “Be brave!” and clap for those who get their own treats. If a child won't reach in, say, “Okay—I'll be brave!” and get a treat for him or her.

Say: ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.



Texture Test Supplies

paper strips, wrapped
treats, gift bag,
scissors

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Texture Test Easy Prep

Cut and crumple strips of paper. Place them in a gift bag, and hide small wrapped treats among the papers.

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.



HOME
CONNECT®

Brave Babies

Children want to be strong and brave, but being so small and vulnerable makes it difficult. They can be encouraged to take small steps toward being brave by your giving an abundance of praise when they don't cry at a bug or a barking dog or when they try something new. Say, "Jesus is helping you be brave!"

Growing With Jesus

Your child learned that God helps us be brave (from Acts 4:5-14). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Be Strong

Lay your older baby on his or her back in front of you. Place your index fingers in the palms of your baby's hands, and put your thumbs over the top of baby's hands. Slowly and gently raise your baby by his or her hands to a seated or standing position. (If your baby isn't yet able to sit in a booster or high chair or able to hold his or her head up, simply hold your baby in a sitting position.)

Say: **What a strong baby you are growing up to be! God is helping you to be brave and strong.**

TODDLER

Rescue the Babies

Have your child turn around and close his or her eyes while you put a small stuffed animal in a laundry basket and cover the basket with a blanket. When you are finished, give a small cry.

Say: **The animal is afraid.** Have your child respond by saying, "Be brave!" Then have your child run and get the stuffed animal. Have your child bring the animal back to the starting place to cuddle, hug, and kiss it. Repeat the game.

Say: **We can be brave followers of Jesus. God helps us be brave.**

2-YEAR-OLD

Flashlight Fun

Cut holes in various places on the four sides of a box. Tape the lid closed. If a box doesn't have a lid, turn it upside down so that no light shines through the top of the box. Encourage your child to shine a flashlight through the holes to look inside the box. You could put a large toy inside the box as well. Let your child see that the darkness disappears when he or she shines the flashlight through the holes. Remind your child that God can "shine" away our fears so that we can be brave and strong.

Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- Take turns with your child making scary animal sounds, like growling lions and big, barking dogs. Then say, "I'm not afraid! God helps me be strong."
- Practice jumping skills with your child, perhaps a jump into your arms or a jump off a pillow and then from other objects such as the curb, steps, or a low stool. This practice can be a reminder of how brave it is to try new things.
- Pray with your child when he or she shows signs of fear. Remind your child that God helps us be brave when we need to be.

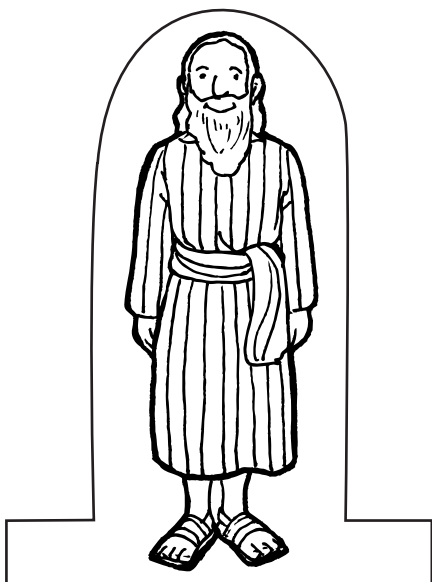
**OK
TO COPY**



God Helps Us

Cut out these tiny puppets, and tape them around a child's index fingers. Sing the following song to the tune of "Frère Jacques." Have the child hide the puppets behind his or her back and bring them out when you say, "Peter's brave" and "John is strong."

**Where is Peter? Where is John?
Are they afraid? Are they afraid?
Jesus will help them.
Jesus will help them.
Peter's brave. John is strong.**



Peter



John

**OK
TO COPY**
Illustrated by Nancy Munger.

