



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

Preschoolers can be scared of many things, such as the dark, big animals, or even new people. The fact that they can trust that God is with them and helping them wherever they are will comfort them very much. Use this lesson to help preschoolers understand that God helps them be brave.



► 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 be brave with God’s help.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	A Teaching Impression Play a game of Simon Says with an invisible leader.	Bible, rope, clothespins, bedsheet, flashlight	Set up a bedsheet somewhere in your room using a rope and clothespins, and place a light behind the sheet.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear that Theo wants to be strong.	CD player, Theo puppet, small milk carton, string Teacher Pack: CD	Tie the milk carton to Theo’s paw.
	Bible Time: Peter Is Brave Mime what happened when Peter was brave.	Bible	

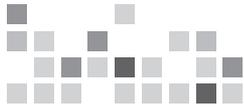
Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Bravery Bands Decorate wristbands.</p>	My Bible Hugs, safety scissors, markers, tape	Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Bravery Disk Snack Snack on foods that make kids strong.</p>	vanilla wafers, milk, cups, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Tell Me About Jesus Build a tower with what they know about Jesus.</p>	blocks	
	<p>Center 4: Badge of Courage Make badges of courage to remind them God helps them be brave.</p>	craft foam, safety pins, markers, scissors, "Circle" pattern (at the end of the lesson)	Use the "Circle" pattern to cut a circle from the craft foam for each child.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Say brave prayers.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome, Friends!" (track 16), "Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) (track 6)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

 **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 one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Welcome, Friends!" (track 16 on the CD) to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Welcome, friends! Welcome, friends!** (*make the "come over" motion twice*)
To God's house, to God's house. (*put hands together above head to make a house*)
We will learn from God above (*point up*)
How Jesus came to share his love. (*hug self*)
Join the fun! Join the fun! (*jump up and down*)
(Repeat.)

Say: **We have some fun planned today as we learn that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE. Let's sing one more song before we learn how Peter showed love and bravery at the Temple.**

Lead children in singing "Love Is Patient and Kind" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5a) (track 6 on the CD). Encourage children to stand in a circle and put their arms over one another's shoulders as they sing. Lead children in swaying back and forth as well.

 **Love is patient and kind.**
Love is not jealous
Or boastful
Or proud or rude.
Love is patient and kind.
Love is not jealous
Or boastful
Or proud or rude.
Love is patient and kind.
(Repeat.)

Love is patient and kind.
(Repeat 3x.)

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Say: **God has a perfect love for us, just like we sang in the last song. And God loves us so much that he'll always be with us and protect us. In fact, as God protects us, ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE. Let's hear how God helped Jesus' friend Peter be brave.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

A Teaching Impression

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 14:26, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

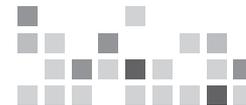
Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). This means that the Holy Spirit will teach you. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children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

Say: **In the Bible today, we'll hear about how the Holy Spirit helped a man named Peter be brave. Even though we can't see the Holy Spirit, he can teach us the right actions to do, the right things to say, and the right way to love others. The Holy Spirit can also help us be brave.**

Choose a child to teach the children actions he or she chooses without using any words. Once children are standing and ready to play the game, have the chosen child stand behind the bedsheet with the light shining behind him or her. This should create a shadow on the sheet that can be seen from the outside. Remind children that even though they can't see that child, they can trust that he or she is there with them, just as God's Holy Spirit is with us. Instruct the child behind the sheet to "teach" the other kids the action that they are to perform. Remind the child behind the sheet that he or she can't speak and can only use motions.

Have the rest of the group mimic the actions they see the shadow performing. Allow the chosen child to perform one or two actions, and then have him or her choose another child to take a turn leading the actions. Continue until every child has had a turn leading.

Say: **The Holy Spirit is always with us. Let's say our Key Verse one more time.** Lead children in saying the adapted Key Verse with you: **The Holy Spirit will teach you (John 14:26).**



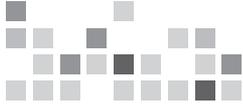
A Teaching Impression Supplies

- Bible
- rope
- clothespins
- bedsheet
- flashlight

A Teaching Impression Easy Prep

Set up a bedsheet somewhere in your room using a rope and clothespins, and place a light behind the sheet.





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
small milk carton
string

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 5)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the milk carton to
Theo's paw.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you know what actions you were supposed to do when you couldn't see the leader?
- Tell about a time you didn't know the right thing to do or say.
- What can you do the next time you aren't sure what to do or say?

Say: **The Holy Spirit will teach you. Just as you couldn't see our teaching friend with your eyes, you knew what actions you were supposed to do. After Jesus left them and went to heaven, his friends couldn't see him anymore, but the Holy Spirit taught them what to do and say. And the same Holy Spirit taught them to be brave, just like ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, using the Holy Spirit.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 5 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today.

Theo: It's good to be here.

Teacher: What is that you're drinking?

Theo: Milk.

Teacher: Do you like to drink milk?

Theo: Oh, yes!

Teacher: Why do you like to drink milk?

Theo: Milk makes my bones and teeth strong, and it helps me grow big.

Teacher: Probably all of us should be drinking a lot of milk to make us strong.

Theo: My bones will be strong enough to do fun things and go on many adventures!

Teacher: What else do you need for those fun things and adventures?

Theo: I need to be brave!

Teacher: That reminds me of what we're learning today. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today.

(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.)

Theo: That's great!

Teacher: We're going to read in the Bible about God helping one person be brave.

Theo: I hope you have a great time reading. I need to find a recycle bin for my empty milk carton, so I'll see you next week!



Teacher: Boys and girls, 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.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think milk is good for our bodies?
- What other things make you strong?
- What are some ways God makes you strong and brave?

Say: **Milk makes us healthy and helps our bodies feel strong. We'll read in the Bible today about Peter and his friend John. They were filled with strength and bravery. Let's find out who helped them be brave and strong. And let's find out how ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

Bible Time: Peter Is Brave

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE. The Bible tells us that Peter and John were brave because they were telling many people about Jesus' life and death and how he came back to life.** Invite each child to stand in front of the group and briefly tell about himself or herself. It's okay if they're apprehensive about it—don't force them.

Say: **Sometimes it's scary for us to talk in front of people. Peter and John may have been scared at times, too. God helped them be brave.**

Open your Bible to Acts 4:5-14, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **I need your help telling what happened with Peter and John. When I say "Peter" or "John," show me your strong-arm muscles and look brave.** Have the children practice showing their strong-arm muscles. **When I say "Sanhedrin," show me a mean-looking face.** Have the children practice showing their mean faces.

Say: **One day Peter and John** (have the children show their strong-arm muscles) **were telling people about Jesus, and they got in trouble with the Sanhedrin.** (Have the children show their mean faces.)

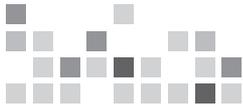
Say: **The Sanhedrin** (have the children show their mean faces) **was a group of powerful men. For example, priests and people from rich families were members of the group. The Sanhedrin** (have the children show their mean faces) **could arrest people for breaking the Jewish law. Peter and John** (have the children show their strong-arm muscles) **were arrested by them for healing a sick man.**



**Bible Time: Peter Is
Brave
Supplies**

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Bible





Say: **The scary Sanhedrin** (have the children show their mean faces) **started to ask Peter and John** (have the children show their strong-arm muscles) **many questions. They asked, “Who made this sick man walk?” Peter and John** (have the children show their strong-arm muscles) **might have been scared at first, but then God helped them be brave through the power of the Holy Spirit. So Peter** (have the children show their strong-arm muscles) **told the Sanhedrin** (have the children show their mean faces), **“The name of Jesus made this sick man well!” Peter was so brave.** (Have the children show their strong-arm muscles.) **The members of the Sanhedrin** (have the children show their mean faces) **were amazed at his bravery, too.** (Have children look surprised and cover their mouths in amazement.)

Peter and John (have the children show their strong-arm muscles) **loved Jesus very much. You can tell by their actions. Peter and John** (have the children show their strong-arm muscles) **were brave in front of the scary Sanhedrin** (have the children show their mean faces) **because God helped them be brave, even during that scary time. ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, too.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What’s scary about speaking in front of a bunch of people?
- Why is it so neat that Peter was brave enough to talk to the Sanhedrin?
- Tell about a time you were brave.
- What can you do to be brave the next time you’re scared?

Say: **When Peter was scared, God helped him be brave. We can be brave, too, because ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, just like he helped Peter. All we have to do is ask him. This week, let’s remember to ask God to help us be brave.**

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:

Bravery Bands

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 9 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **In the Bible, it says ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE. What do you want God to help you be brave with?** Allow time. **God will always help you be brave when you ask him. Let's write what we want God's help with this week on some Bravery Bands, and wear them to help us remember that God's with us.**

Have the children cut out the Bravery Bands. As kids cut, ask each child what he or she would like written on the Bravery Band's blank line. Children might say, "There is a thunderstorm" or "It's too dark to see." Fill in the line, and encourage kids to color the bands with markers. Then tape the bands at the ends so children can wear them home.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **When can you be strong and have courage?**
- **What will you do this week to ask Jesus to give you courage?**

Say: **It's always good to ask because ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE. Just like Peter and John, we know God will help us be brave in scary times.**

CENTER 2:

Bravery Disk Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **God makes us strong and brave. Today for our snack we'll eat some foods that help us be strong. We have muscle milk and bravery disks.** Give each child a cup of milk and some vanilla wafers on a napkin. Lead the children in a prayer for the snack.

As kids eat, ask them to tell other foods that help them be strong and feel good. Let them come up with nicknames for the food, like muscle milk or bravery disks.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Say: **Milk helps us be strong, just like many other good foods do. But God helps us be strong, too. Just like God helped Peter and John when they had to talk in front of the Sanhedrin, ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**



Center 1: Bravery Bands Supplies

My Bible Hugs
safety scissors
markers
tape

Center 1: Bravery Bands Easy Prep

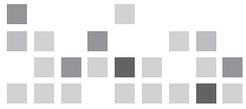
Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.

Center 2: Bravery Disk Snack Supplies

vanilla wafers
milk
cups
napkins
antibacterial gel
(optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT





Center 3: Tell Me About Jesus Supplies

blocks

Center 4: Badge of Courage Supplies

craft foam
safety pins
markers
scissors
“Circle” pattern (at the
end of the lesson)

Center 4: Badge of Courage Easy Prep

Use the “Circle” pattern
to cut a circle from the
craft foam for each
child.

CENTER 3:

Tell Me About Jesus

What You'll Do

Have the children sit in a circle either at a table or on the floor. Place blocks in the center so everyone can reach them. Say: **Today we're learning how God helped Peter and John be brave. Let's play a game to think about this.**

Peter and John knew Jesus really well. Let's name some things we know about Jesus. Help the children brainstorm different things they know about Jesus, such as that he healed people, he's always with them, or he loves them. Each time a child tells one thing, have him or her add a block, building a foundation and then a tower that becomes taller and taller. When the tower seems to start looking wobbly, say: ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE, but if we try to be brave all on our own, we might get wobbly.** Let the kids knock over the tower and repeat the process, reminding kids that ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- Explain whether you're like a strong tower or a wobbly tower.
- Why do you need Jesus to help you be strong and brave?

Say: **God wants to help us be brave, like he helped Peter and John when they talked to the Sanhedrin. We might feel wobbly if we try to be brave all on our own, but when we ask Jesus for help, ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**

CENTER 4:

Badge of Courage

What You'll Do

Say: **Peter and John were brave because God helped them be brave. Like Peter and John, there are lots of people who are brave.** Let kids tell about some brave people they know. **People like doctors, firefighters, and police officers have to be brave for their jobs. God helps people be brave for the jobs they have to do. And God helps you be brave, too.**

Give each child a foam circle. Explain that the brave firefighters and police officers have badges. Encourage children to make their own badges by decorating the foam circles. Tell kids that these badges can remind them that ► **GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.** As each child finishes making a badge, put a safety pin through the foam and attach it to the child's shirt.



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about someone you saw do a brave thing.
- Tell about a place you want to be brave.
- What can you remember about Peter that will help you be brave?

Say: **Whenever we feel afraid about something, ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE.**
Wear your badge this week, and pray to God whenever you need help being brave.

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5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a 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.

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. I would like each of you to choose a way to be brave this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Ask God to help you be brave when you wake up from a bad dream.**
- **Ask God to help you be brave and make a new friend.**

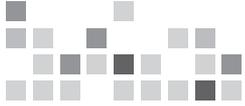
Say: **If you want bravery after a scary dream, circle the choice with one dot. If you want bravery to make a new friend, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



Daily Challenges Supplies

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My Bible Hugs





Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Have the children stand and form a circle.

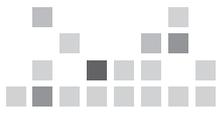
Say: **We've learned that ► GOD HELPS US BE BRAVE. Show me you're brave.**

Have kids put hands on their hips and stand tall. Invite each child to ask God for bravery with one thing. Then close the prayer: **Thank you, God, for helping us be brave. In Jesus' name, amen.**

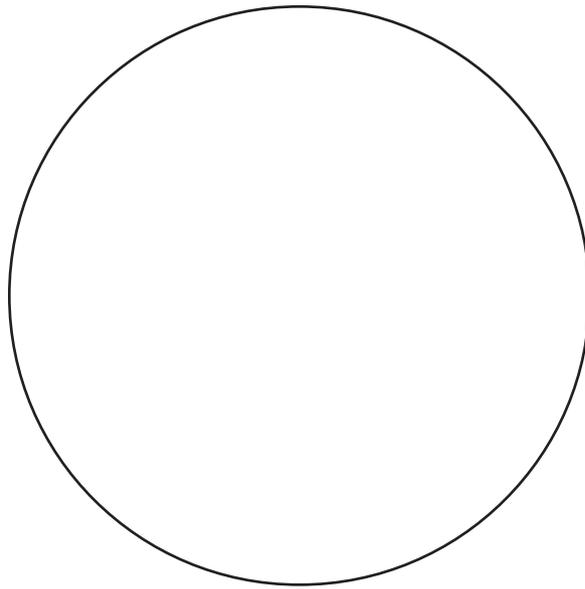
Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs 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 the 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.



Circle



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TO COPY



