



# Apostles Defend Their Faith

Acts 5:12-42

First- and second-graders' friendships are important to them. Self-esteem in kids is sometimes dependent upon what friends think about them. Telling their friends that they are Christians, or even that they go to church, may be difficult if kids fear they will be rejected as a result. Use this lesson to encourage kids to share their faith even when it's hard.



### ► Bible Point

Keep following God, even when it's hard.

### Key Verse

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance" (James 1:2-3).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will follow God, even when it's hard.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Bubble Up</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to blow bubbles through an obstacle course.	bubble solution and wands, chenille wires, tape	Set up a simple obstacle course. Use chenille wires to make loops large enough for bubbles to go through. Then tape the wire loops to a table so that the loops are about 6 inches apart and form a right, left, right, left zigzag pattern.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Journey With the Apostles</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Act out the emotions of the people from the Bible passage.	Bible	Form a simple "jail" by placing several chairs in a circle.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Consider It Joy</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Look at different scenarios and discuss how they could be joyful in them.	Bible, My Bible Fun, CD player, pens, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	<b>Joyful Jails</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make snacks to remind them of the Bible story and Key Verse.	small paper plates, bread, jelly in squeeze bottles, string licorice, scissors, plastic wrap, CD player, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	<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.**





### Bubble Up Supplies

bubble solution and  
wands  
chenille wires  
tape

### Bubble Up Easy Prep

Set up a simple obstacle course. Use chenille wires to make loops large enough for bubbles to go through. Then tape the wire loops to a table so that the loops are about 6 inches apart and form a right, left, right, left zigzag pattern.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Bubble Up

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we're going to play a game with bubbles. We're going to see if we can get one bubble to go through all of these loops without breaking.**

Have kids form pairs and gather around the table. Give the first pair some bubble solution and two wands. Have one child in the pair blow a bubble through the first loop. The other child will try to catch it with the second wand and then blow the bubble through the second loop. The first child will then try to catch the bubble and gently blow it through the third loop.

After all pairs have had a turn, have kids answer the following questions with their partners. After each question, invite partners to share their answers with the rest of the class.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was the hardest part of this game?**
- **Why was this game hard?**
- **What are some other things you can think of that are hard to do?**
- **Do you think being a Christian is hard? Explain.**

Say: **Today we're going to learn about some hard things that the apostles had to go through because they were Christians. We'll find out what they did when they had to go through hard times. We'll also learn that we should ► KEEP FOLLOWING GOD, EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD.**





**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

## Journey With the Apostles

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Acts 5:12-42, and show kids the passage. Explain that today's story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. Have kids form four groups.

Say: **Today we're going to follow Jesus' apostles and see what happens to them. There are four types of people in our story. First there are the apostles.**

Kids in Group 1 will be the apostles. Have them say "Believe in Jesus!" whenever they hear the word *apostles* during the Bible story.

Say: **Then there were the sick people who the apostles met along the way.**

Have kids in Group 2 be the sick people. Have them hold their tummies and groan whenever they hear the word *sick* during the Bible story.

Say: **Then there were the people who were jealous of the apostles. They were called the Sadducees.**

Kids in Group 3 will be the Sadducees. Have them say "Go to jail!" whenever they hear the word *Sadducees*.

Say: **Then there were the believers, the people who believed in Jesus because of the apostles' teachings and healing.**

Kids in Group 4 will be the believers. Have this group say "I believe in Jesus!" whenever they hear the word *believed*.

Have kids sit in their groups on the floor as you prepare to tell them the story. Have each group practice its response a few times, then begin the Bible story. Pause after you read each italicized word in the story to let groups respond.

Say: **I'm going to tell the story now. When you hear me say your group's word, respond the way we practiced.**

**The *apostles* had been performing many miracles for the people who *believed* in Jesus. And more and more people *believed* in Jesus all the time. Because of what the *apostles* were doing, people who had been *sick* were healed! So more and more *sick* people came, hoping they would be healed, too.**

**Then the *Sadducees* had the *apostles* arrested!**



### Journey With the Apostles Supplies

Bible

### Journey With the Apostles Easy Prep

Form a simple "jail" by placing several chairs in a circle.





Have kids from Group 1, the apostles, go sit in jail.

Say: **The Sadducees didn't like that the *apostles* were telling people about Jesus. The *Sadducees* didn't like that the *apostles* were healing people who were *sick*. So the *apostles* sat in jail.**

**Then an angel of the Lord came and opened the doors of the jail. The angel told the *apostles* to go tell more people about Jesus. The *apostles* did what the angel said, and people *believed!***

Have kids in Group 1 leave jail and return to the rest of the group.

Say: **The *Sadducees* didn't like this at all. So they had guards bring the *apostles* to the courthouse so they could be questioned. The high priest of the *Sadducees* said, "We told you not to tell people about Jesus! Why do you continue to do it?" The *apostles* replied, "We must obey God rather than men. You sent Jesus to the cross, but God raised Jesus from the dead so people can be forgiven for the things they've done wrong. We must tell everyone about Jesus! Even *sick* people!"**

**The *Sadducees* became very angry and wanted to have the *apostles* killed. But another man, a Pharisee, convinced the *Sadducees* to let the *apostles* live. The *Sadducees* had the *apostles* beaten and then let them go. The *apostles* were told not to speak in the name of Jesus. The *apostles* left and were very happy because they knew they had done what God wanted them to do, even though it was hard for them. They left and went to tell more people—even *sick* people—about Jesus!**

Have kids answer the following questions in their groups. After each question, invite volunteers to share their answers with the rest of the class.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why were the apostles telling people about Jesus?
- Why should you tell people about Jesus?
- What made it hard for the apostles to tell others about Jesus?
- What makes it hard for you to tell other kids about Jesus?
- What should we do when it's hard to be a Christian?

Say: **The apostles told people about Jesus, even when it was hard. We should also ► KEEP FOLLOWING GOD, EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD. Let's take a look at our Key Verse for today. It will help us know what to do when it's hard for us to be Christians.**





### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Consider It Joy

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to James 1:2-3, and read it aloud for the class: **“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance” (James 1:2-3).** Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Ask:

- What are trials?
- What do you think perseverance means?

Say: **Trials are things that are hard for us to do.**

Ask:

- What is something hard you had to do this week?
- Why was it hard to do?
- What do you think would've helped make it easier?

Say: **Sometimes we have to do things that are hard, like working out a new math problem or learning how to spell a new word. But sometimes we have to do things that are hard because we're Christians. God tells us to be joyful, or happy, when this happens. He tells us to persevere.**

**Perseverance means to be persistent and patient. It means to keep on going even when it's hard.**

Ask:

- When has it been hard for you to be a Christian?
- What do you do when it's hard to be a Christian?

Say: **God will help us when it's hard to be Christians, just as he helped the apostles. We can have joy, even when it's hard to be Christians, because God knows what's best for us and will help us. Let's sing our Key Verse song to help us remember what to do when it's hard to be Christians.**

Cue your CD to “Persevere!” (James 1:2-3) (track 9 on the CD), and play the song once for the kids. Then lead them in singing the song two or three times.



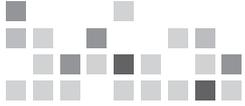
### Consider It Joy Supplies

- 
- Bible
  - My Bible Fun
  - CD player
  - pens
  - 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: “Persevere!” (James 1:2-3) (track 9)

### Consider It Joy Easy Prep

- 
- Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.





Sing:

 Consider it pure joy  
Whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
Because you know the testing of your faith  
Develops perseverance.

**Persevere! Hold on!**  
Troubles make your faith grow strong.  
**Persevere! Hold on!**  
Troubles make your faith grow strong.

Consider it pure joy  
Whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
Because you know the testing of your faith  
Develops perseverance.

**Persevere! Hold on!**  
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“Persevere!” (James 1:2-3) by Carol Smith. © 2003, 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

After the song, have kids turn to the “Consider It Joy!” activity in their My Bible Fun pages.

Say: **On your page, you’ll see four different pictures of situations in which it might be hard to be a Christian. I’m going to read to you what each picture is about. Then you can talk about what you would do if you were in that situation, and you can draw smiles on the blank faces.**

**Remember that our Key Verse, James 1:2-3, tells us to “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.” Have kids repeat the Key Verse with you. Remember our Key Verse as you draw the face in each picture!**

**In the first situation, Jeremy is being teased about going to Sunday school. He’d just been invited to go to a baseball game, but he told his friends he couldn’t go because he was going to church.**

Have kids draw smiles and talk about what they would do in the situation.

Say: **In the second situation, Amanda is being teased because she isn’t allowed to watch a certain cartoon with her friends because it makes fun of God.**

Have kids draw smiles and talk about what they would do in this situation.



Say: **In the third situation, Kelly is laughed at when she tells her class that God created the world.**

Have kids draw smiles again and talk about what they would do in this situation.

Say: **In the last situation, Nathan is standing with a group of his friends when they decide to write on the school building. He knows that this kind of behavior is wrong, but they're telling him he's a sissy for not going along with them.**

Have kids draw smiles and talk about what they would do in the situation.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was the hardest thing about each of these situations?
- Do you think you could be joyful in each situation? Why or why not?
- What should we do when it's hard to be a Christian?

Say: **Now let's make a yummy snack to remind us of today's Bible story and Key Verse.**

## Joyful Jails

### What You'll Do

Set out small paper plates, bread, jelly in squeeze bottles, string licorice, scissors, and plastic wrap. Explain that kids will be making Joyful Jails to remind them that the apostles had joy, even when they were in jail and it was hard to be Christians. Tell kids that first they'll each make a snack to cover and take home. They can use their snacks to tell their families the Bible story and Key Verse. Then they'll each make a snack to enjoy in class.

Give each child a paper plate with a slice of bread on it. Show kids how to make a smiley face on the bread with the jelly. Then show kids how to cut and place pieces of string licorice over the bread to look like a jail. Use plastic wrap to cover the first snack each child makes. Then let kids each make another snack to enjoy in class.

Cue your CD to "Persevere!" (James 1:2-3) (track 9 on the CD). As kids are working, softly play the song.

Sing:

 **Consider it pure joy  
Whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
Because you know the testing of your faith  
Develops perseverance.**

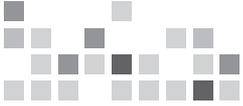


### Joyful Jails Supplies

- 
- small paper plates
  - bread
  - jelly in squeeze bottles
  - string licorice
  - scissors
  - plastic wrap
  - CD player
  - 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "Persevere!" (James 1:2-3) (track 9)

 **ALLERGY  
ALERT**





**Persevere! Hold on!**  
**Troubles make your faith grow strong.**  
**Persevere! Hold on!**  
**Troubles make your faith grow strong.**  
**Consider it pure joy**  
**Whenever you face trials of many kinds,**  
**Because you know the testing of your faith**  
**Develops perseverance.**

**Persevere! Hold on!**  
**Troubles make your faith grow strong.**  
**Persevere! Hold on!**  
**Troubles make your faith grow strong.**

"Persevere!" (James 1:2-3) by Carol Smith. © 2003, 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **We know God will always be with us, and he'll help us be strong. Let's try to**  
**► KEEP FOLLOWING GOD, EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD this week.**

## **4** LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

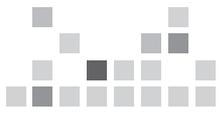
Say: **Let's think about how we ► KEEP FOLLOWING GOD, EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Lead your family in a prayer, asking God to help each of you follow him—even when it's hard!**
- **Read Acts 5:12-42 with a parent, and discuss ways you can follow God in your own life.**
- **Tell a friend who doesn't know God why you follow God.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell 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, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Just like Paul, we can ► KEEP FOLLOWING GOD, EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

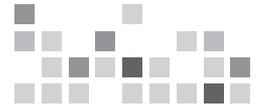
## Weaving Faith at Home

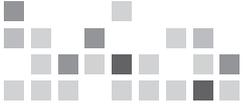
Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we keep following God, even when it's hard. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

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

Close in prayer.

Pray: **Dear Lord, thank you for helping us when it's hard to be a Christian. Thank you that we can always trust you to do what's best for us. Help us to always have joy, even when it's hard. In Jesus' name, amen.**





## Lyrics

### Persevere! (James 1:2-3)

Consider it pure joy  
Whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
Because you know the testing of your faith  
Develops perseverance.

**Persevere! Hold on!**  
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**OK**  
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