

# June 16, 2024



Bible Passage: Acts 3—4  
(Peter and John before the Sanhedrin)

## God Is Truth Remember Verse

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

### LESSON OVERVIEW

**CONNECT//**  
10 minutes



Question or Risk

**SUPPLIES**

- Question or Risk cards\*
- Scissors

**GATHER//**  
30 minutes



Remember Verse

Game: Verse

Whispers

**SUPPLIES**

- None

Storytelling

**SUPPLIES**

- Optional: Storytelling video\*,

Investigate Questions\*

- Bibles
- Butcher paper (2 pieces, each approx. 4')
- Marker
- Tape
- Crepe paper streamers (1 roll, black)
- Small bag of coins
- Cane or walking stick
- Trash bag
- Optional: spotlight or flashlight

Discussion Questions

**RESPOND//**  
15 minutes



Sharing Truth

**SUPPLIES**

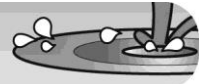
- Index cards (1 per child)
- Pencils or pens

(Optional) Freeze Dance

**SUPPLIES**

- Upbeat music

**BLESS//**  
5 minutes



**SUPPLIES**

- Remember Verse cards\*
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 3\*
- Bible

### Further Resources

To help you plan and lead:

**Customizable copy of Lesson 2  
2018–19 Scope and Sequence  
TruStory How It Works  
Small Group Enhancement**

**At Home Weekly: Lesson 2**

The weekly for the next lesson—to be sent home for preteaching by parents—is found in BLESS.

# LEADER PREP

*Each week you'll find a list of resources along with encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.*

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## **Inspire** *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

I was quite the evangelist when I was young. I became a Christian when I was five years old, and it was something I believed in and took to heart immediately. I knew that God is Truth and that Jesus is the way. I wanted all my friends to know Jesus, so I began preaching to them and urgently insisting that they know the truth and become believers. It never worked.

As I grew older and walked with God longer, I began to understand His truth in new ways. I realize now that it's the Holy Spirit who works, both in my life and the lives of people around me, to draw them to Him. I realize that knowing God's truth is more than just reciting verses. It's something to live out and experience as I go through each day with the reminder to love Him with all that I am and to love those around me as myself. The truth of God becomes much more meaningful and deep and real to me as I experience the joys and hardships of life.

What I continue to realize each day is that through His big story, God continues to reveal Himself as truth. He does it through His Word and the amazing faithfulness He shows throughout it. And He continues to do it today—drawing people to Himself, advancing His kingdom, showing us glimpses of the redemption that will one day be fully realized. God is Truth—He always has been and always will be.

*Denise Snyder*  
Crossroads Church

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## **Equip** *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

When the Holy Spirit came and filled the believers at Pentecost (Acts 2), everything changed. God empowered this new church made up of believers in Jesus, and the believers boldly shared God's truth with others.

In Acts 3, we read about the first recorded healing in the name of Jesus by His followers. This name of Jesus, declared to the beggar and in the following chapter to the Sanhedrin, means much more than simply a name. Jesus' followers are proclaiming the authority of Jesus. Only in His power and strength can they do these miracles and proclaim His truth.

This miracle gets everyone talking, which angers the Sanhedrin—the court of the Jews. The main opposition comes from the Sadducees, who don't believe in the resurrection of the dead. For even though we see Jesus in conflict with the Pharisees in the Gospels, they had similar theology, and the Bible often presents Pharisees (such as Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and Gamaliel) interested in or siding with Jesus.

Peter preaches a bold message to the Sanhedrin, and they're amazed because Peter lacks formal training. This doesn't mean Peter was uneducated—Jewish boys memorized large portions of the Old Testament by their teenage years, and this gives Peter the knowledge he uses to share about Jesus.

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## **Support** *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

We live in a time when truth is relative. Standards vary from person to person, and the thought of imposing one's truth

on another has become offensive and politically incorrect. As Christians, we believe in one truth, but how do we communicate that to a generation of children who hear different messages in the media and at school? Consider the following questions: What was the concept of truth in society when you were growing up? How does that differ from what kids hear today?

The truth hasn't changed and never will. The ancient Israelites knew God as the one true God long before the culture around them did. And the way God asked them to communicate His truth was through the way they lived, loved Him, and treated others. That hasn't changed. We communicate that God is Truth by the way we live our lives, by the choices we make, and by the love we show to those around us.

As you interact with your children this week, remind them of God's truth through the way you live it out. Encourage them to show others the truth of God with their actions as they're empowered by the Holy Spirit in their lives. Pray for them this week, that they would clearly understand God's truth, that they wouldn't be swayed by false claims around them, and that even at a young age they would live God's truth in mighty ways.

## CONNECT//10 minutes



*Children develop relationships with their leaders and one another through simple activities and conversation starters.*

## Question or Risk

In this game, kids choose a card and answer a question or take a risk.

### SUPPLIES

- Question or Risk cards (see Resources)
- Scissors

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Question or Risk cards and cut them apart. Place the Question cards in one stack and the Risk cards in another stack. (If you have a larger class, separate the kids into small groups for this game, and print an additional set of cards for each group.)

## Developmentally Speaking

As you engage with today's CONNECT question, be aware that first and second graders often have large fears of things such as the dark, insects, and loud sounds. Show empathy as each child shares her answer and affirm her for being bold in sharing her answer.

### RELATE

**CONNECT QUESTION:** Welcome and greet children. Open your time by asking this question: **What are you most afraid of?**

**Sometimes sharing something personal about yourself can be as much of a challenge as taking an actual risk!**

Invite the children to play a game of Question or Risk. To play, ask one child to draw a card from the Question stack or Risk stack. If she draws a Question card, she must answer the question. If she draws a Risk card, she must do what the card says. After the child completes her card, invite another child to take a card. Continue until each child has either answered a question about himself or taken a risk. If a child doesn't feel comfortable with the Question or Risk on the card he drew, encourage him to draw another card.

## GATHER//30 minutes



*Children experience and learn more about God through prayer, storytelling from *The Big God Story*, an investigation into God's Word, and creative ways to memorize Scripture.*

## Remember Verse

Each week children will spend time memorizing a portion of Scripture together. The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

## Game: Verse Whispers

### SUPPLIES

- None

### RELATE

Ask the children to sit in a circle. Whisper the Remember Verse to one child in the circle and tell him to “pass on” the verse by whispering it to the person on his left. Then have this child whisper the verse to the person on her left and so on until the verse travels all the way around the circle. The last person to hear the verse should share what she heard. See how closely it matches the actual Remember Verse and recite the verse together as a group.

## Storytelling

**Bible Passage: Acts 3—4**

**Storytelling Technique: Settings, Objects, and Actions**

**God is Truth**

### SUPPLIES

- Optional: Storytelling video (see Resources), Investigate Questions (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Butcher paper (2 pieces, each approx. 4')
- Marker
- Tape
- Crepe paper streamers (1 roll, black)
- Small bag of coins
- Cane or walking stick
- Trash bag
- Optional: spotlight or flashlight

### PREPARE AHEAD

Place the sheets of butcher paper next to each other (so they're touching lengthwise) and on them draw a scene depicting what the gate to the Jerusalem temple may have looked like. Include an entrance and some steps. Make your scene as simple or as elaborate as you'd like.

### SET UP

Tape the temple entrance to the wall on one side of the room. Put the cane or walking stick in front of it, and, if possible, shine a spotlight or flashlight on it. Put the trash bag and bag of coins where you'll be storytelling. On the other side of the room, tape black crepe paper streamers in a large square to create the feeling of a jail cell. Make sure the “cell” is big enough so all the children can sit in it.

### RELATE

Invite the children to sit down in front of the temple backdrop. **Have any of you ever been lost?** Invite children to respond. **How did you feel when you were lost?** Invite kids to share their experiences or share one of your own. **Being lost can feel like you're in a maze—there are many paths to choose from but only one true way home. What is truth?** Invite responses. **If something is true, that means that it's right and real. What is my true name?** Pause for responses. **What is the true name of our church?** Encourage answers. **What is the true month of the year we're in?** Invite answers. **Yes! For all of these questions, there is a true answer.**

The only One who can teach us what is really true is God. He is always right, and He always knows what is true and good. Because God is Truth, He is the only One who can guide us in the right way to go. All throughout The Big God Story, people have discovered that God is Truth. It made them so excited that they wanted to follow God, even if it was scary or hard. Abraham left his home and went to the new land God showed him because he trusted that God was leading him in the right way and making true promises. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt because he trusted that God was telling the truth when He said that He would rescue His people. Let's pray and ask God to reveal His truth to us today. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

We heard how God sent His Holy Spirit to live within those who choose to trust and obey Jesus. The Holy Spirit unified the believers in their faith. Soon after, the believers began sharing the truth of Jesus with anyone who would listen. Their certainty about God's truth made them very bold! Two of those believers, the disciples Peter and John, heard what Jesus said about sharing His message with the world. They knew that through the power of the Holy Spirit they could follow His command and share the truth God had entrusted to them.

Invite children to open to Acts 3:1–2 and follow along as you read. Pick up the cane. **This man was carried to the temple gates every day so he could ask people for money.** Pick up the bag of coins and shake it. Read vv. 3–5 as kids follow along. **The man saw Peter and John going into the temple, so he asked them for money. Peter and John knew that, through God, they could help this man.** Read v. 6. **Then Peter took the man by the hand and helped him up. Immediately the man's feet and legs became strong—God had healed him! The man could walk for the first time in his life!** Throw the cane in the trash bag, tie it closed, and toss it aside. **The man was so excited! He got up, walked, jumped around, and praised God.** Invite kids to stand up and jump while shouting praises to God. After a few moments, ask them to sit back down.

Invite children to follow along as you read vv. 9–10. **This miracle amazed the people around them, and Peter and John began to share the truth about Jesus with them. With the Holy Spirit giving him boldness, Peter stood in front of the crowd and told them God had healed the man. Peter told them how God had sent His Son, Jesus, to die for people's sins. Through Jesus, God offers forgiveness to everyone! Many people believed in Jesus that day because Peter and John boldly shared God's truth through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**But the religious leaders didn't like what Peter and John said. They didn't believe people could rise from the dead. So, they put Peter and John into jail for the night.** Have everyone move to the crepe paper "jail" and sit in the "cell" as you continue. **The next morning, the religious leaders brought Peter and John to stand before them and answer questions. Peter, again filled with boldness by the Holy Spirit, shared the truth about who Jesus is. He told the leaders that God had healed the disabled man in the name of Jesus.** Have children turn to Acts 4:12 and follow along as you read. **Peter told the crowd that God had sent Jesus as the only way to be saved. Peter shared God's plans with the people there that day, and he used that opportunity to tell others the truth about Jesus so that they could receive eternal life.**

**Peter and John's confidence in God's truth amazed the religious leaders. Although they didn't believe in Jesus, they knew they couldn't keep Peter and John in jail. People were praising God because He'd healed the crippled man. The religious leaders told Peter and John to quit preaching about Jesus, but they said they would obey God no matter what.** Read vv. 19–20.

**After Peter and John left the jail, they continued to preach about Jesus. They knew God is Truth and faithfully shared this with others. Their belief in God's truth helped other believers to be strong in their faith as well. How do you think Peter and John could be so bold? Invite responses. Great thoughts. They had the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guides us in God's truth (John 16:13) and reminds us of God's truth (John 14:26). When we have the Holy Spirit to give us strength, and when we spend time with Jesus and know His Word, we will have what we need to be bold about God's truth as well.** Tell a story of a time the Holy Spirit led you into God's truth.

#### Discussion Questions

- **What miracle did God do through Peter and John? Acts 3:6–7**
- **How did the disabled man respond to what God did for him? Acts 3:8**
- **Why didn't the religious leaders like Peter and John? Acts 4:2**
- **What does it mean that God is Truth?**
- **What is something true that God has shown you?**

## RESPOND//15 minutes



*Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond to God through creative activities and games.*

### Sharing Truth

Children will be given time to ponder and pray about what makes them afraid to share God's truth with others.

#### SUPPLIES

- Index cards (1 per child)
- Pencils or pens

#### RELATE

**Peter spoke boldly before the religious leaders because he was full of God's truth. He was overflowing with the truth of Jesus and couldn't stop talking about what he'd seen and heard. What is truth?** Invite responses. **Why is truth something we would want to share?** Invite answers.

**Knowing the truth is something good. It's something helpful for others to know. God is Truth. He is always right, and He always knows what is true and good. But sharing the truth isn't always easy. In fact, sometimes it's scary! Why do you think this is?** Pause for responses. **The Bible says we don't have to be afraid because we aren't alone! We don't need to be afraid because God will never leave us and will always help us when we're weak** (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Invite your kids to break into small groups. **What fears do you have that might keep you from sharing the truth?** Give an index card and pencil or pen to each child and invite the kids to write down or draw what makes them afraid to share the truth. Then invite the kids to share what they wrote or drew, if they're comfortable.

After the kids share their fears, invite them to pray together and ask God to help them give over their fears to Him and to fill them with truth that they'll want to give away. Encourage the children to look for opportunities this week to share their faith or help someone in need, even if it might seem hard or scary. The kids can take their cards home and draw on the back of them about how God's Holy Spirit helped them to be bold.

### (Optional) Freeze Dance

Today invite your kids to play Freeze Dance.

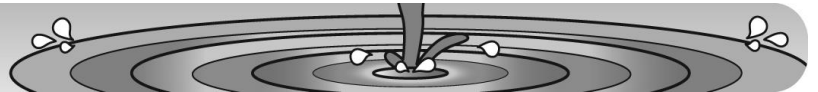
#### SUPPLIES

- Upbeat music

#### RELATE

**When Peter and John healed the beggar who couldn't walk, he immediately jumped up, started walking, and began to praise God.** Play upbeat music and have the children dance and wiggle around the room. Then stop the music without warning. When the music stops, the kids will freeze in place. Anyone who keeps moving is out of the game. Then resume the music and continue to play until one child remains. After the activity, discuss: **How do you think the crippled man felt when he was healed? When was a time you wanted to leap and praise God?**

## BLESS//5 minutes



*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

#### SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 3 (see Resources)
- Bible

**RELATE**

Have your children stand in a circle and place their hands over their hearts as you read the blessing from Colossians 2:6–7.

**So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.**

**May your understanding of God’s truth grow more and more, and may His truth lead you in every area of your life.**

Encourage the children to turn to the children on either side of them and say, “May you grow strong in God’s truth.”

Send home Remember Verse cards and the At Home Weekly with your kids.