

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

Would You Rather

SUPPLIES

- Would You Rather questions*

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

Being Bold for Jesus



SUPPLIES

- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Pens

(Optional) Doing the Impossible

SUPPLIES

- Tweezers (1 per child)

- Breath mints (several small boxes of tiny-sized mints) 
- Disposable bowls (2 per child)
- Cookies (1 per child) 
- Timer

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.

*see Resources

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.

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

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.

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.

Would You Rather

Kids will discover more about each other by playing a game of Would You Rather.

SUPPLIES

- Would You Rather questions (see Resources)

PREPARE AHEAD

Print a copy of the Would You Rather questions for each child.

RELATE

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

Invite the children to play a game during which they will boldly state their preferences. First, hand a copy of the Would You Rather questions to each child. Then give your kids a few minutes to walk around the room and mingle with the rest of the children as they ask one another—and answer—the questions.

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 answers. **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?** Invite responses. **What is the true month of the year we're in?** Invite responses. **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, 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?**
- **What holds us back sometimes from sharing God's truth?**

RESPOND//15 minutes



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

Being Bold for Jesus

Children will talk with God about what makes them afraid to share His truth with others and ponder situations where they can tell others about God.

SUPPLIES

- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- 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?** Pause for responses.

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? Invite answers. **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).**

Because we have the Holy Spirit in us, we can be bold about sharing truth too. Is God calling you to share truth with someone? Maybe God is calling you to share truth with your friends at school who don't know Jesus. Maybe there are people who are being unkind or lying and God is calling you to speak truth in that situation.



Invite the children to spend a few moments in silent prayer as they talk to God how He might be asking them to share

truth today. When they're finished praying, invite the kids to gather in small groups and share what they feel God might be asking of them. Next, hand each child a sheet of paper and a pen. Invite the kids to write the word "TRUTH" down the side of the page. Encourage the kids to spend the next few minutes thinking of situations where they can be aware of the people around them and speak God's truth. For instance, the letter "R" could correspond to "Recess." How can they speak God's truth at recess?

(Optional) Doing the Impossible

In this game, kids will try to do impossible feats in only a minute's time.

SUPPLIES

- Tweezers (1 per child)
- Breath mints (several small boxes of tiny-sized mints) 
- Disposable bowls (2 per child)
- Cookies (1 per child) 
- Timer

SET UP

Place a dozen or so mints in each bowl (one bowl for each child participating in the game). Make sure each bowl contains the same number of mints.

RELATE

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter went before the religious leaders and boldly shared the gospel with them. Sometimes sharing God's truth can seem like an impossible task, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do anything.

Today lead the children in a game during which they try to do the impossible in only a minute's time. To play, invite the children to compete against each other in different challenges.

Game 1: Mint Tweeze

Give each contestant a bowl of small breath mints, a pair of tweezers, and an empty bowl. Set the timer to one minute. Using tweezers, the kids must take the breath mints from one bowl and move them to the empty bowl. The person who moves the most mints into her empty bowl within a minute wins the game.

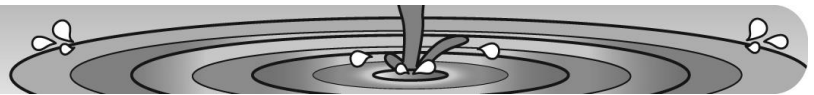
Game 2: Eat the Cookie

Give each contestant a cookie and have her place it on her forehead. Set the timer to one minute. For this challenge, each child must try to move the cookie from her forehead to her mouth using only her facial muscles! The first person to eat his cookie wins the game.

Developmentally Speaking

Children in third and fourth grade enjoy testing their muscle strength and fine motor skills. Cheer on your kids as they attempt these fun games.

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.