

# 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 

**Bold Truth**

**SUPPLIES**

- None

**GATHER//**  
30 minutes 

**Remember Verse**

**Game: Verse Whispers**

**SUPPLIES**

- None

**Storytelling**

**SUPPLIES**

- Optional: Storytelling video\*, Investigate Questions\*
- Bibles
- Small bag of coins

- Cane or walking stick
- Trash bag
- Misc. costumes and props
- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Pens or pencils

**Discussion Questions**

**RESPOND//**  
15 minutes 

**Obstacles to Sharing Truth**

**SUPPLIES**

- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Pens

**(Optional) Jail Tag**

**SUPPLIES**

- Masking or painter's tape or several cones

**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.*

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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.*

### Bold Truth

Invite the students to play a game during which they must boldly share the truth about their preferences.

#### SUPPLIES

- None

#### RELATE

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

Have all of the kids stand in the middle of the room. Tell them you're going to ask a question (from the list below). As you ask each question, you'll designate one side of the room for one possible answer and another side of the room for the other answer. The students should run to the side of the room that represents their answer. Then start asking the questions! You might join in the fun by going to the side that represents your preference.

- **Would you rather only be able to whisper or only be able to shout?**
- **Would you rather eat only your favorite dinner or only desserts for the rest of your life?**
- **Would you rather always lose or never play?**
- **Would you rather always wear nose plugs or earmuffs?**
- **Would you rather be a tiny elephant or a giant mouse?**
- **Would you rather be a sand castle or a wave?**
- **Would you rather be invisible or able to read minds?**
- **Would you rather step on a jellyfish or kiss a crab?**
- **Would you rather be two feet tall or 20 feet tall?**
- **Would you rather eat a bar of soap or drink a bottle of soap?**
- **Would you rather be hairy all over or completely bald?**
- **Would you rather be the smartest person you know or the most popular person you know?**

## 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: Acting Out the Narrative**

**God is Truth**

## SUPPLIES

- Optional: Storytelling video (see Resources), Investigate Questions (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Small bag of coins
- Cane or walking stick
- Trash bag
- Misc. costumes and props
- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Pens or pencils

## RELATE

**Have any of you ever been lost?** Invite kids to respond. **How did you feel when you were lost?** Invite students 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 answers. **What is the true name of our church?** Invite responses. **What is the true month of the year that we are 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 Jesus’ command and share the truth God had entrusted to them.**

Invite students to turn to Acts 3. **Pay attention as I storytell because you’ll have a chance to retell this passage for us later.** Invite a volunteer to read Acts 3:1–2 as everyone follows along. 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. Invite a volunteer to read vv. 3–5. **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.** Invite a volunteer to 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 the bag closed, and toss it aside. **The man was so excited! He got up, walked, jumped around, and praised God.**

Read vv. 9–10 as children follow along. **This miracle amazed the people around them, and Peter and John took the opportunity 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 their faith 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, and Peter and John claimed Jesus had done just that! So, the religious leaders put Peter and John into jail for the night. 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, talked about who Jesus was. He told the leaders that God had healed the disabled man in the name of Jesus. Have kids turn to Acts 4:12 and follow along as you read. Peter told the crowd that God had send 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 boldly said they would obey God no matter what. Invite a volunteer to read vv. 19–20.

Divide the students into groups of four or five and invite them to create short skits or write stories in order to retell the narrative they just heard. Encourage them to be creative! They might create a skit that retells the passage in a modern way. Or they might write down their version of the passage. Allow the kids to use any costumes or props you've provided. Once each group finishes preparing, have them share their skit or stories, and then bring everyone back together.

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
- Why didn't Peter and John stop sharing God's truth, even when they were thrown in jail? Acts 4:20
- 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.*

## Obstacles to Sharing Truth

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

#### SUPPLIES

- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Pens

#### RELATE

Today we saw Peter boldly declare the gospel before big crowds and religious leaders. But earlier in The Big God Story, Peter wasn't so courageous. He even denied knowing Jesus three times (Mark 14:66–72). How do you think Peter changed after Pentecost? Invite responses. Great thoughts. Peter was transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit living and working inside of him. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, Peter was able to share God's truth boldly. God's truth was so alive inside of Peter that he said he couldn't help but share it (Acts 4:20)!

God has given us the same Spirit to live and work in us. We too have the ability to boldly share truth with others. 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. What are some obstacles that might get in the way of being bold for Jesus? Invite responses.

Give a sheet of paper and a pen to each student and invite the kids to take a few moments to think of ways God might be calling them to share truth with others. Ask the kids to write down some of the things that come to mind. Also encourage them to write down any obstacles that might get in the way. When the kids finish journaling, invite them to break into pairs or small groups and share what they wrote. Then they can spend time praying for one another, asking God to give them courage to be bold and share truth as the Holy Spirit empowers them.

## Developmentally Speaking

Fifth and sixth graders can write multiple paragraphs with ease. Be willing to allow time for the children to write a long journal entry if they seem to be connecting with this activity, even if it means shortening the prayer time.

## (Optional) Jail Tag

Invite your children to play a game of Jail Tag.

### SUPPLIES

- Masking or painter's tape or several cones

### SET UP

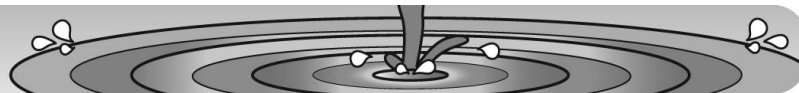
Use the tape or cones to create boundaries for a game of Jail Tag. Also designate a spot for the jail.

### RELATE

**Peter spoke boldly before the Sanhedrin, and because of it he was thrown into jail. He was bold for his faith and willing to risk his life to share Jesus with others.**

To play Jail Tag, divide the class into two groups: the believers and the town leaders. The town leaders are in charge of chasing the believers. When a believer is tagged, he goes to jail. The only way a believer can be released from jail is if he is tagged by another believer without being tagged by a town leader. The game ends when all the believers have been put in jail. After the game, discuss: **How would you feel if you were thrown in jail? What is something you believe in so much that you would be willing to be thrown in jail for it?**

**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 students 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 students 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.