

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



**Date: 5.11.25 | Title: Peter Preaches and Prays for Boldness
Scripture: Acts 3:1-4:36**

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students:

- God is eternal and has existed for eternity past and will exist for eternity into the future.
- Each person who comes to faith in Christ receives the Holy Spirit and is given a spiritual gift.
- Jesus promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to minister to God's people in a special way.
- The Holy Spirit intercedes before the Father on our behalf.
- The Holy Spirit inspired and guided people to write the Bible.

High School Students:

- God is eternal, and although He is not bound by time, He chooses to operate in it to relate to us.
- Each person who comes to faith in Christ receives the Holy Spirit and is endowed with a spiritual gift to be used to serve in the church.
- Jesus promised that God would send the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit has come to convict, teach, comfort, lead, strengthen, and seal us, as well as to produce fruit within and through us.
- The Holy Spirit intercedes before the Father on our behalf when we do not know how to or what to pray.
- The Holy Spirit inspired and guided people to write the Bible and used the personalities and voices of men to communicate the very words of God.



MEMORY VERSE

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." - Acts 2:38-39

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INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Have you ever had the power go out at your house? Make a list of things that stopped working when there was no power. Today we will learn that we need the power of the Holy Spirit to do the job Jesus has given us, spreading the good news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

During the last few weeks, we have learned how Jesus told His followers to go and share the good news of the gospel with the world. He did not expect them to do this alone. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as their Helper and promised His power would allow them to be His witnesses. Today, we will hear how God used Peter to heal a man through the power of the Holy Spirit and how this helped point others to God.

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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

The book of Acts reveals the remarkable transformation brought about by the Holy Spirit, most notably in the life of the apostle Peter and in the thousands who came to believe in Jerusalem. As Peter followed the leading of Christ's promised Helper, the Holy Spirit, his actions, empowered by the Spirit, were consistently followed by bold declarations of what God was doing. In Acts, word and deed always go hand in hand.

As faithful Jewish believers, Peter and John continued their practice of going to the temple to pray. One day, as they approached the temple gate called Beautiful (Acts 3:1-3), they encountered a man who had been crippled from birth. This beggar had positioned himself where worshippers passed by, hoping for alms. While Peter and John had no money to offer, they gave what they did have: healing in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Acts 3:4-7). Instantly, the man's feet and ankles became strong, and he began walking, leaping, and praising God- a complete healing (Acts 3:8-10). The word "leaping" (Greek: hallomai) appears rarely in Scripture and links to Isaiah 35:6—a prophetic passage about God's coming kingdom and restoration.

Amazed by the miracle, a crowd gathered, and Peter seized the opportunity to preach his second sermon (Acts 3:11-26). Peter was clear: the miracle was not due to their own power but through faith in the resurrected Jesus (Acts 3:12-16). He acknowledged the crowd's ignorance in demanding Jesus' death but urged them to repent and turn to God for forgiveness and refreshment (Acts 3:17-21). He reminded them of God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3), through whom all nations would be blessed.

Yet, instead of sparking repentance, this powerful proclamation led to opposition. They are disturbed that the apostles proclaim the resurrection from the dead and that the people are starting to believe their revolutionary message. As Peter and John were still speaking, the temple authorities, disturbed by their preaching about the resurrection, arrested them (Acts 4:1-3). These leaders, mainly Sadducees who denied the resurrection (John 11:49; Acts 23:8), were part of the Sanhedrin, Israel's ruling council. Despite the arrest, Luke notes the incredible church growth: from 120 (Acts 1:15), to 3,000 (Acts 2:41), and now 5,000 men, suggesting more than 10,000 total believers (Acts 4:4).

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The next day, Peter and John were brought before the Sanhedrin, which included both the most intellectual and powerful rulers, elders, and teachers of the law—Israel’s religious elite (Acts 4:5-6). This “Supreme Court” demanded to know by what power or name they had healed the man. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter courageously declared that the man was healed by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom they had crucified but whom God had raised from the dead (Acts 4:8-10). Peter emphasized that Jesus is “the cornerstone” (Psalm 118:22) and boldly stated, “Salvation is found in no one else” (Acts 4:12). His courage was striking, considering he was a fisherman standing before the most educated and powerful leaders in Israel. These men had spent three years with Jesus, and in knowing Him, they knew much more than all the learned men of the Sanhedrin.

The Sanhedrin was astonished by the spirit filled courageous boldness of Peter and John, recognizing that they were “unschooled, ordinary fishermen” but had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13). They couldn’t deny the miracle, especially with the healed man standing before them (Acts 4:14). Still, motivated by fear of losing power rather than faithfulness to God’s truth, they ordered Peter and John not to speak in Jesus’ name. But the apostles responded, “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:19-20). They were threatened but not silenced. Peter and John objected to the restriction placed on them because they were ultimately accountable to God, not men, and were compelled to testify to what they had witnessed.

Upon their release, Peter and John returned to the believers and shared all that had happened. The church’s immediate response was to pray together, with one voice, exalting God’s sovereignty, power, and authority (Acts 4:23-24). They quoted Psalm 2:1-2, recognizing that opposition to Jesus was foretold, and asked for boldness to continue proclaiming the gospel despite threats (Acts 4:25-30). In response to their unified, faith-filled prayer, the place where they met was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit once more (Acts 4:31). They continued to proclaim the word of God with uncommon courage.

The miracle of the lame man’s healing had a far-reaching impact. While he only expected a small gift, he received complete physical restoration—and more importantly, became a living testimony to the power of Jesus. The crowd at the temple witnessed not just a good deed, but a sign pointing directly to the Messiah. Peter and John, fully convinced of the importance of living on mission for Christ, never withheld the name or truth of Jesus. Their message was always the same: salvation, healing, and restoration come only through Him.

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Peter's words and actions in Acts 3–4 showcase the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. What once was fear became boldness; what once was denial became proclamation. Even in the face of imprisonment and powerful opposition, Peter remained resolute, declaring Jesus as Lord and the only way to salvation. His boldness was not self-made but Spirit-given. He offered even the Sanhedrin—his persecutors—the opportunity to place their faith in Jesus.

When the early church heard of Peter and John's confrontation, they responded the only way they knew how: prayer. They reminded each other and God of His promises and asked for boldness, not safety. In response, God shook the place and filled them again with His Spirit. With renewed courage and conviction, they continued proclaiming the gospel in both word and deed.



LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Remind your group that we are studying the New Testament. The book of Acts is about God sending the Holy Spirit to permanently dwell within Jesus' disciples and other believers after He ascended back to heaven. With the help of the Holy Spirit, those who followed Christ told many people about Jesus, helped others, and started the first churches. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the message of Jesus began to spread all over the world.

TELL
THE
STORY



Tell the story:

Read directly from Scripture, use The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Biggest Story Bible, or the summary provided in the lesson

One afternoon, Peter and John, two of Jesus' followers, went to the temple to pray. They saw a man sitting by the temple gate. The man's friends carried him to the temple every day because he could not walk. As people entered the temple, the man asked them for money since he couldn't work. When he asked Peter and John, they said to the man, "Look at us." The man looked, expecting them to give him something. Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Peter reached out and helped the man up. His feet and ankles were strong, and he could walk. The man leaped and jumped around. He went into the temple with Peter and John and praised God. The people in the temple saw that the man was healed, and they were filled with awe and astonishment at what had happened to him.



Peter began to preach in the temple. The religious leaders approached them. They were annoyed that Peter was teaching about Jesus, so they put Peter and John in jail until the next day. Still, many people who heard their message believed in Jesus and were saved.

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

The next day, the religious leaders got together along with the high priest and his family. Peter and John stood before them, and they asked, "By what power or in what name have you been healing and teaching?"

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. He asked them, "Are you asking

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us about the healing of the man who could not walk? Are you asking who healed him?" We want you and all the people of Israel to know that the power of Jesus healed him. You nailed Jesus to a cross, but God raised Him from the dead. It is because of Him that this man is healed!"

Peter told the religious leaders that they rejected Jesus because they thought He was not important, but He is the most important One of all.

The religious leaders were amazed and didn't know what to say. They ordered Peter and John never to preach or teach in the name of Jesus again.

Peter and John said, "We cannot be quiet. We must tell people about what we have seen and heard." The religious leaders had no reason to punish Peter and John, so they let them go. Peter and John met with other believers and prayed that God would give them power to speak boldly and without fear.

Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

Share the GOSPEL:

After Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to begin working. Through the power of Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who was lame. Peter and John showed God's power and pointed to a greater, spiritual healing found in Jesus.

After seeing Peter heal the man, the people ran to Peter and John for an explanation. Peter spoke boldly and told them that it was not their power that healed the man, but the power of Jesus Christ. Peter shared how only Jesus has the power to heal and to save. God equips and helps us do things we could never do alone. God gives us the power to share the gospel, and like Peter, provides us with opportunities for others to praise His name.

Peter and John showed God's power and pointed to a greater, spiritual healing found in Jesus. The greatest healing we need is to have our sins washed away. We cannot do this in our own power. Forgiveness and salvation only come by faith in Jesus.

Peter continued to preach about Jesus even when it was difficult. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus' followers from sharing the good news about Jesus. The gospel is great news that we must share if we believe in Jesus Christ.

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QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

Instead of giving the man at the temple gate money, what did Peter share with him? (Acts 3:6) Peter knew the power of Jesus was with him because the Holy Spirit had come upon him. Peter healed the man in the name of Jesus.

If Peter and John had given the man money, would all of his needs be met? Why not? If the man were only given money, he would have missed out on his physical healing and the forgiveness of sin. Peter followed the Spirit's leading, and the power of the Holy Spirit was displayed for all to see. Seeing this miracle brought many people to hear and respond to the gospel.

How did the man and the other people respond to his healing? (Acts 3:8-10) After Peter healed the man, he got up and walked around praising God. The people recognized the man and were amazed that this same man was now walking around completely healed. God used Peter to show others the power of the Holy Spirit. Not only does the Holy Spirit have the power to heal people's bodies, but He has the power to give us new life with changed hearts that desire to praise God.

The people at the temple were amazed at the man's healing. How can people see the power of God in our lives? The Holy Spirit gives us the power to turn away from sin and obey God. When we live to follow Christ, our lives will look different from the world's, and others will see God's power working in us.

How was the man's healing used for God's glory? The man praised God when he was healed and gave God all the credit. Our salvation and obedience in sharing the gospel is also for God's glory. He alone is worthy of all praise because He alone can save us.

How did the religious leaders respond to Peter preaching the gospel to the crowd (Acts 4:2)? They were annoyed by Peter's preaching, so they arrested Peter and John. However, this did not stop the gospel's impact on the crowd. The Bible says that many people

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listened to Peter and were saved.

The next day, Peter and John appeared before the religious leaders and answered questions they asked about how they healed and taught. Whose power did Peter say he healed and taught in? (Acts 4:10) Peter told them that all this was done through the power of Jesus. Even though the religious leaders thought they killed Jesus, Peter told them Jesus rose again. Jesus is alive, and His power was working through His disciples! The leaders did not have an answer for this, so they told Peter and John to stop preaching the gospel.

How did Peter respond to the religious leaders? (Acts 4:20) Peter and John told the leaders they could not stop sharing the good news. Jesus told His followers to share what they had seen and heard. Peter wanted to be obedient to the Lord. They kept sharing the gospel, no matter the cost. We have this same mission.

According to our memory verse, who receives the Holy Spirit and how?

How can we have the boldness to share the gospel with others? We should trust God more than we fear others' opinions or responses. The Holy Spirit gave Jesus' followers boldness to serve Him with their lives. Believers have the same Holy Spirit within them to help them and provide them with boldness. We can pray for boldness and ask God to help us just as the disciples did.

What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me live on mission?

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PRAYER PROMPT:

Thank You Lord for the power You give us through the Holy Spirit to share the gospel boldly. Help us look for opportunities to share the good news of salvation with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

BIBLE SKILLS PRACTICE:

Cross-Reference Hunt:

Skill: Using Scripture to interpret Scripture

How:

- Have students find where Peter quotes Psalm 118:22 in Acts 4:11.
- Ask: "Why would Peter use that verse? What does it tell us about Jesus?"
- Show how the Old Testament points to Jesus.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

Our Creek Families will collect money in the funnel for United Christian Ministries in May and June.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Acts 2:38-39

38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

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Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

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Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD »»

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD »»»

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?