

Bible Story: Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin • Acts 3–4:22

Bottom Line: Keep going because of what God has done.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container
- “Codebreaker Message” Activity Page
- “Codebreaker Key” Activity Page
- Paper
- Writing supplies

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Codebreaker Message” on paper, two per Small Group.
- Print “Codebreaker Key” on paper, one per Small Group.

During the Activity:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a “Codebreaker Message” Activity Page and writing supplies.
- Explain that the page contains a secret message from today’s Bible Story written in a simple code.
- Challenge each team to work together to crack the code and discover Peter’s bold message. The first team to decode it wins and gets to announce the message: *“We have to speak about the things we’ve seen and heard.”*

What You Say:

“Great work, codebreakers! You uncovered Peter’s message. Today, we’re going to hear more about this message and what Peter meant when he said, *“We have to speak about the things we’ve seen and heard” (Acts 4:20b NIV)*. Peter and John were ordinary men with no special training, but they had amazing boldness! Let’s go learn how we can be bold and persevere when things get tough, just like Peter and John.”

[Lead kids to do worship and watch today’s video lesson]

2. Leap for Joy

What You Need:

- “Leap for Joy” Activity Page
- “Healed Man” Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Coloring supplies

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print “Leap for Joy” on cardstock, one per kid.
- Copy “Healed Man” on cardstock and cut one cutout per kid.
- Fold each kid’s “Leap for Joy” Activity Page and cut along the dotted lines.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a “Leap for Joy” Activity Page and a cutout from the “Healed Man” Activity Page.
- Instruct kids to color their “Leap for Joy” Activity Page and their cutout from the “Healed Man” Activity Page.
- Show kids where to glue the cutout on the tab.
- Demonstrate how to bend the top of the paper so the man leaps for joy.

What You Say:

“Flatten your paper and then fold the top up—see the man leap for joy? Now do it faster and watch him jump up and down! The man from our Bible Story is jumping for joy!

“You can take this home to help you retell the story of what God did for this man. It’s a great reminder that when we see the amazing things God does, it gives us courage to tell others about the good news of Jesus and excitement to keep going, just like Peter and John.

“God has done great things for you too! He has made a way for you to be His friend forever by sending Jesus to pay for sins! Then, once Jesus went back to heaven, God moved in so close through the Holy Spirit! God wants you to be His close friend, and He has done so much to make that happen!

“Knowing that God has made a way for us to be friends with Him forever can make us bold and courageous too. It can help us keep going when things get tough.

“There are a lot of ways that things can get tough. Maybe you feel like a coach is being totally unfair, and you want to quit the team. Maybe you find out your family is moving, and you have

to leave all your friends. Or maybe the doctor says you have to take a really yucky medicine every single day. That is so hard! But God loves you, and He is with you, so you can keep going!

“You’ll face many things that make you want to give up. But when that happens, remember how much God loves you and all that God has done for you. Ask the Holy Spirit inside you for help. Then you can keep going, no matter what. Remember, we can **[Bottom Line] keep going because of what God has done!**”

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need:

- Floor tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Create a straight line down the center of the activity area with floor tape.

During the Activity:

- Divide the group into two teams. Designate one side of the room as “Bold for Jesus” and the other side as “Not Bold.”
- Read one scenario below at a time.
- Each team will discuss the scenario and send one representative to stand on the side of the room that they think best describes the action.
- After each team has sent their representative, discuss with the group why each action is bold or not bold.
- **Scenarios:**
 - You see a friend being made fun of, and you walk away so it doesn’t happen to you. (*Not Bold*)
 - Your friend asks you what you did over the weekend, and you mention you went to church. (*Bold*)
 - Someone asks you why you’re always so positive, and you tell them it’s because of your hope in Jesus. (*Bold*)
 - You know something is wrong, but you stay quiet because you don’t want to cause trouble. (*Not Bold*)

What You Say:

“It’s not always easy to be bold, is it? Sometimes it can feel scary. But Peter and John’s story shows us where our boldness comes from. It doesn’t come from being the strongest or the loudest. It comes from being convinced about what we’ve experienced and heard God do.

“God has done so much for you! God wants you to be close friends with Him so much that He worked for years and years throughout history to bring Jesus. And then Jesus died for your sins so that you could be close to God. Then, God sent the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ very Spirit, so you can be closer than close with God. God goes through everything with you through His Spirit—what a close friend! And this friendship will last forever! Wow!

“Knowing that God loves us so much that He made a way for us to be friends with Him forever can make US bold too. It can help us keep going when things get tough. Maybe you feel like a coach is being totally unfair. Maybe you have to go to a new school where you don’t know anyone. Or maybe you find out you have to go to a lot of doctors’ appointments. You can trust that God is working in and through you so that you can keep going!

“You will face many things that make you want to give up. But when that happens, remember how much God loves you and all that God has done for you. Ask the Holy Spirit inside you for help. Then you can keep going, no matter what. When you focus on that, it makes it easier to **[Bottom Line] keep going because of what God has done!**”

[Make It Personal] (Share a time when you did something bold because you remembered God’s great love for you. For example, you can share something like: “I remember a time when I was nervous to pray before a meal in a restaurant. It felt like everyone was watching. But then, I remembered how much God has done for me, and I realized that showing I’m thankful is more important than what other people might think. It was a small, bold step for me.”)

4. Prayer

“God, thank You for the story of Peter and John. Thank You for showing us what it looks like to be bold and to persevere. We know that life gets hard, and sometimes we want to give up. In those moments, please remind us of everything You’ve done for us. Help us to fix our eyes on You and **[Bottom Line] keep going because of what God has done.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”