

Bible Point ▶

# Jesus helps us serve him.

## Bible Verse

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago” (Ephesians 2:10).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that Jesus helped Peter tell others about him,
  - experience telling someone about Jesus,
  - help Pockets learn to speak loud and clear, and
  - discover things to tell about Jesus.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

#### ■ Peter and John speak boldly about Jesus.



In this passage, Peter and John are called before the elders and teachers of the Law to explain the healing of the disabled man described in Acts 3:1-10. This group of Jewish leaders (the Sanhedrin) was the ruling body of the Jews. The Sanhedrin had authority in all religious matters and in certain legal matters as granted by the Romans. One of the Sanhedrin’s duties was to pronounce judgment in cases of blasphemy. Members of the Sanhedrin probably viewed Peter and John’s actions as bordering on blasphemy. Peter and John claimed that they were able to heal a man—something only God could do—through the power of Jesus, who the Jews contended was dead. So they called Peter and John before them to hear the explanation firsthand.

When asked about the source of his power to heal, Peter replied that the power came from Jesus. He accused the Jewish leaders of crucifying Jesus, whom God then raised from the dead. The Jewish leaders were intent on getting rid of Jesus, but God nullified their actions by raising Jesus from the dead. The Sanhedrin had tried to cover up the Resurrection (Matthew 28:11-15), but Peter contended that the healed man standing before them proved that Jesus was alive.

At least two things gave Peter courage in this intimidating situation. First, he was relying on the Holy Spirit; second, he knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that Jesus is alive. This knowledge gave Peter full and ultimate trust in Jesus. We have the apostles’ (and God’s!) record in the Bible, and we have the same Holy Spirit that empowered Peter. What more do we need to be courageous in the situations we face today?

### Prayer

- Read Philippians 4:13.
- What situation are you facing right now that requires the help and power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit?
- Pray: Lord, remind me every day of your help available through the Holy Spirit. Please strengthen me as I struggle with... In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you'll need.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

## This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome Time</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Cross Name Tags" (p. 14), markers, safety pins or tape	
<b>Let's Get Started</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Option 1: Put On Peter and John</b> —Act out last week's story.	Bathrobes, sandals, towels, large scarves, rope for belts, throw rug, basket	
	<b>Option 2: Chalk It Up</b> —Draw pictures, and learn that it's important to talk boldly about Jesus.	Colored chalk, white paper, water, paper cups	
	<b>Option 3: Mega Message</b> —Make megaphones, and tell an important message about Jesus.	Construction paper, tape, markers or crayons	
	<b>Pick Up Our Toys</b> —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>  	<b>Setting the Stage</b> —Teach a crowd to blow bubbles.	Wrapped pieces of bubble gum, paper lunch bag	
	<b>Bible Song and Prayer Time</b> —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box	
	<b>Hear and Tell the Bible Story</b> —Respond to cue words in a Bible story from Acts 4:1-21.	Bible, megaphones from Option 3	
	<b>Do the Bible Story</b> —Use their megaphones for a rhyme.	Megaphones from Option 3	
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Psst, Pockets!</b> —Teach Pockets that important news needs to come through loud and clear.	Bag of small wrapped lollipops	
	<b>Sweet Messages</b> —Use lollipop microphones to tell about Jesus.	Lollipops from "Psst, Pockets!"	

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

## Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** “Cross Name Tags” (p. 14), markers, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned...” discussion. Use questions such as “Who did you serve last week?” or “How did Jesus help you serve him?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► *Jesus helps us serve him.***
- Hand out the cross name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If any of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopyable handout.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

**teacher tips**

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives.

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## Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among children to offer help as needed and to direct their conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What’s it like to tell good news?” and “Were you ever afraid to talk in front of a group of people?”

### ■ **Option 1: Put On Peter and John**

**SUPPLIES:** bathrobes, sandals, towels, large scarves, rope for belts, throw rug, basket

Provide a box of dress-up items and props, including bathrobes, sandals, towels, large scarves, rope for belts, a throw rug, and a basket. Invite children to dress up like their favorite characters from the story of Peter and John and the man who couldn’t walk. Encourage children to act out last week’s story. Have the children playing the beggar sit on the throw rug and hold the basket as they beg for coins. “Peter and John” can tell others about Jesus. Remind children that ► *Jesus helps us serve him.* Say that today children will learn about what happened when Peter told others about Jesus.

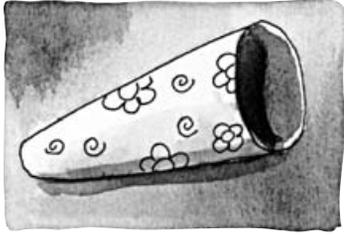
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### ■ **Option 2: Chalk It Up**

**SUPPLIES:** colored chalk, paper cups, water, white paper

Set out colored chalk, paper, and cups of water. Hand each child two sheets of paper, and invite children to make “loud” and “quiet” pictures. On one paper, have them use the chalk to draw a picture of something that’s quiet, such as a butterfly or a kitten. On the second paper, have children each draw a picture of something they can hear clearly, such as a lion or a train whistle. For the loud picture, direct children to dip their chalk in water to get brighter colors.

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If some children don't choose Option 3, have volunteers make extra megaphones. Children will use the megaphones later in the lesson.

As children compare their loud and quiet pictures, explain that today's Bible story is about someone who spoke up loud and clear for Jesus. Explain that when we tell others about Jesus, we want to be like the bright chalk colors so people hear us loud and clear. Remind children that ▶ Jesus helps us serve him and that Peter served Jesus by boldly telling people about him.

### ■ Option 3: Mega Message

**SUPPLIES:** tape, markers or crayons, construction paper, tape

Set out tape and markers or crayons. Hand out construction paper, and have children decorate one side of the paper using markers. Then show children how to roll their papers into cone shapes with the colored side facing out and tape the edges to make megaphones. As children work, explain that megaphones help people talk loud and clear so everyone can hear what they're saying. Tell children they'll hear a story about how Peter spoke loud and clear. Tell children that ▶ Jesus helps us serve him and that telling others about him is one way to serve. Let children repeat the Bible Point using their megaphones.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

### ■ Pick Up Our Toys

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Lead children in singing "Pick Up Our Toys" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in the class, sing the song without the CD, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.



**We will pick up our toys.  
We will pick up our toys.  
We will pick up our toys,  
And put them all away.**

**There's [name] picking up toys.  
There's [name] picking up toys.  
There's [name] picking up toys,  
Putting them all away.**

*(Repeat.)*

# Bible Story Time

## ■ Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** wrapped pieces of bubble gum, paper lunch bag

Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Hand each child a piece of wrapped bubble gum. Say: **You may unwrap and chew your gum. Today we'll take turns being unusual teachers. This is bubble gum school, and I'm looking for someone to be the teacher and tell us how to blow bubbles.** Choose two volunteers to stand in front of the class and tell how to blow bubbles with their gum. After 30 seconds, choose two new teachers.

Continue until everyone who wants to has a turn to teach.

Ask: • **What was it like to stand in front of others and talk?** (I was a little scared; I thought it was fun.)

• **Was it easy or hard to teach others? Explain.** (It was hard because I couldn't explain it; it was easy because some people already knew how to blow bubbles; it was hard because not everyone listened.)

Say: **Sometimes it's hard to talk to lots of people. Today we'll hear about a time when Peter spoke in front of a lot of people and taught them about Jesus. Do you think Peter and John might have been a little nervous? Maybe, but ► Jesus helps us serve him, and Jesus helped Peter say the right words and speak loud and clear. Before we hear our Bible story, shake hands with two people and tell them what a good job they did teaching or blowing bubbles this morning.**

Have children dispose of their gum in the paper lunch bag, and place the bag in the trash can.



## ■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch strips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, then stamp the *servicing stamp* inside one of the surprise cards. Place a marker at **Acts 4:1-21** in the Bible you'll be using.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I'll pass out the surprise cards. Don't look inside your card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, hand out the folded surprise cards.



Now it's time to read God's book,  
Read God's book, read God's book.  
Now it's time to read God's book.  
Let's hear a Bible story.

(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the hand and heart stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Lead the class in clapping for the Bible person, cheering, and making fun applause sound effects by slapping your thighs with your palms. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place, and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible person today. Each week we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ► Jesus helps us serve him.**

**Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn that ► Jesus helps us serve him. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "Jesus, please help me serve you."**

Pass around the basket or box. After you've collected all the surprise cards, set the basket aside, and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and for all the stories in it. Teach us today that ► Jesus helps us serve him. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**



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**BIBLE POINT ►**

## ■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

*SUPPLIES: Bible, megaphones from Option 3*



Hold the *Bible Big Book: How Peter Served Jesus*, and say: **Let's play a review game. The girls can answer a question about last week's story, and the boys will point to the story picture that tells about that part of the story. Then we'll switch, and the boys will answer while the girls point.** Open the *Big Book* to page 1. Use the following review questions.

- **Who was going to the Temple to pray?** (Peter and John.)
- **Who did they meet at the Temple?** (The man who couldn't walk; a beggar.)
- **What did the man ask Peter and John to give him?** (Money.)

Turn to pages 2 and 3 in the *Big Book*.

- **Whose power healed the man so he could walk and jump?** (Jesus' power healed the man.)
- **What did the man do when he was healed?** (He jumped and praised God; he thanked God.)
- **Who looked angry when Peter and John talked about Jesus?** (The Temple leaders; the priests.)

Say: **You remembered our story well! Give yourselves a hand.** Have children clap for one another. **Last week we learned that Peter served Jesus by healing a man who couldn't walk. Today we'll learn another way that Jesus helps us serve him.**

Open the *Bible Big Book* so children see page 4. Hand children their megaphones. If you chose not to do Option 3, have children cup their hands around their mouths. Hold up the Bible and say: **Our story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible.** Hold up the *Bible Big Book*. **The Bible Big Book shows us pictures of the story. Listen carefully, and whenever you hear the name Peter, jump up and use your megaphones or hands to cheer, "Yay! Yay! That's the way!"**

Read the following story as children look at page 4.

**The Temple priests and leaders didn't love Jesus, and they didn't want Peter and John telling people about him. The Temple leaders got madder and madder as Peter told how Jesus' power could raise people from the dead. The leaders grabbed Peter and John and threw them in jail.**

**The next day, the High Priest questioned Peter. "By whose power did you heal the lame man?" he asked. Peter said, "It was Jesus' power that did this wonderful thing. Jesus is the only one who can save people."**

**The priests realized that Peter and John weren't afraid. They heard Peter's amazing words and saw that many people believed and praised God. The priests couldn't find a reason to punish Peter and John, so they let the two disciples go. "Stop telling others about Jesus," the priests commanded. But Peter continued to tell people everywhere about Jesus.**

Close the *Bible Big Book*. Have children set their megaphones beside them.



Ask: • **What did Peter and John do after the man was healed?** (They told people about Jesus; they spoke up for Jesus.)

• **Why do you think the Temple leaders were so angry?** (They didn't like Peter and John; they were jealous; they didn't want people to know Jesus; they thought they were the bosses.)

• **Why didn't Peter and John stop talking about Jesus?** (They wanted people to know about Jesus; Jesus wanted them to keep telling.)

• **Is it ever hard for you to tell people about Jesus? Explain.** (Yes, because I might get made fun of; no, because I like to talk about Jesus.)

Say: **Sometimes it's hard to tell others about our faith in Jesus. But we can remember Peter and John. Peter and John wanted to tell everyone about Jesus. They wouldn't stop because they knew Jesus wanted them to tell others about him.**

Open your Bible to **Ephesians 2:10**, and say: **Our Bible verse today tells us God made each of us to do good things! It says, ►"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."**

**Just like Peter and John, we can speak out loud and clear and tell others about Jesus. Let's use our megaphones once more to say, ►"Jesus helps us serve him!"** Pause for children to say the Bible Point. **Now let's form a circle and use our megaphones to play a game.**





## ■ Do the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** megaphones from Option 3

When children have formed a standing circle, say: **We'll play a game called Loud and Clear. It will help us be like Peter and John when they spoke boldly to people about Jesus. I'll give you directions. Listen closely because sometimes you'll answer loud and clear with your megaphones, and sometimes you'll put your megaphones down and whisper.** Use the following responses for the class.

**Loud and clear, say your name.** (*Call out your names.*)

**Whisper and repeat the same.** (*Whisper your names.*)

**Loud and clear—you can shout—**

**Who did Peter tell about?** (*Call out the name "Jesus."*)

**Whisper now and tell us true**

**What does Jesus want us to do?** (*Whisper the words "serve him."*)

**Three more times, loud and clearly,**

**Who's the one we love so dearly?** (*Call out, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!"*)

Repeat the rhyme a second time. When you're finished, ask:

- **Why does Jesus want us to tell others about him?** (So everyone gets to know Jesus; so more people can love Jesus and serve him.)

- **Who can you tell about Jesus this week?** (My friends; my family; kids at school; my neighbors; people who are sad or hurt.)

Say: **Peter and John spoke boldly about Jesus. They weren't afraid because they knew that ► Jesus helps us serve him. I'm glad that we can be like Peter and John and tell others about Jesus. I'm also glad that ► Jesus helps us serve him. Let's visit Pockets. We can tell her more about Jesus.**

Have children set their megaphones against a wall until they go home.



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## Closing

### ■ Psst, Pockets!

**SUPPLIES:** bag of small wrapped lollipops

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo. Go through the following script. After you finish the script, put Pockets out of sight.





**Teacher:** Hello, Pockets. How are you this fine day?

**Pockets:** *(Whispers and mumbles, but no one can understand what she's saying.)*

**Teacher:** What was that? We didn't hear you, Pockets.

**Pockets:** *(Whispers and mumbles.)*

**Teacher:** I'm having a hard time hearing you. Is it something important?

**Pockets:** Yes, it's really important! *(Whispers and mumbles once more.)*

**Teacher:** We've been learning that when something is important to say, we want to say it loud and clear so people hear.

**Pockets:** But if I speak out, you may be angry.

**Teacher:** We heard a story of how Peter and John spoke about Jesus even when the Temple leaders were angry. Children, let's tell Pockets the story. Maybe it'll help her understand that we can tell important messages loud and clear. *(Have children take turns telling the story. Encourage them to tell Pockets that Jesus helps us to be brave and speak out. Lead children to tell Pockets the Bible Point.)* Peter and John knew it was important to tell others about Jesus, so they spoke boldly. Even though they knew the Temple leaders would be upset, it was more important to serve Jesus. Can you tell us your important message, Pockets?

**Pockets:** Well, my message isn't as important as telling others about Jesus. *That's* really important! But I guess I can tell you loud and clear—I ATE THE SNACKS!

**Teacher:** *(Shake head and laugh.)* Well, that message was certainly loud and clear, wasn't it, children? I bet you didn't find these treats! *(Hold up a bag of small wrapped lollipops.)* Would you like to help hand them out?

**Pockets:** Oh, yes! I'm happy that you're not upset with me. But I'm happier that ► Jesus helps us serve him. Now I can help by serving the snacks.

*(Have Pockets hand each child a lollipop. Tell children not to unwrap their lollipops. Then put Pockets out of sight.)*

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## ■ Sweet Messages

**SUPPLIES:** lollipops from "Psst, Pockets!"

Say: **We've been learning today that ► Jesus helps us serve him. We learned that Peter and John told others about Jesus and kept telling them even when the leaders warned them to stop. It's important to serve Jesus by telling others about him no matter what. Let's pretend that our lollipops are microphones. Who'd like to use his or her microphone to tell something about Jesus such as "Jesus loves us" or "Jesus is always with us"?** Allow children time to stand and tell their ideas about Jesus using their lollipops as microphones. Remind children not to unwrap their lollipops during class.





If children are shy or have a difficult time thinking of something to say, encourage them by whispering the Bible Point and helping them repeat it. You may want to use a lollipop of your own and repeat the Bible Point with them.

When everyone's had a turn to speak into their "microphones," say: **Let's serve Jesus with a prayer.** Pray: **Dear God, it's fun to tell others about Jesus. Please help us to be brave like Peter and John. In Jesus' name, amen.** Let children take their lollipop microphones home to enjoy.



### **Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### ■ **Lively Learning: Loud and Clear Cheer**

Repeat the action rhyme children learned in the “Do the Bible Story” activity.

**Loud and clear; say your name.** (*Call out your names.*)

**Whisper and repeat the same.** (*Whisper your names.*)

**Loud and clear—you can shout—**

**Who did Peter tell about?** (*Call out the name “Jesus.”*)

**Whisper now and tell us true**

**What Jesus wants us all to do.** (*Whisper the words “serve him.”*)

**Three more times, loud and clearly,**

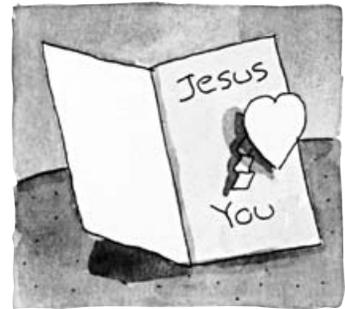
**Who’s the one we love so dearly?** (*Call out, “Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!”*)

Remind children that if we speak loudly and clearly, others hear what we say. Tell them that ► Jesus helps us serve him and will help us tell others about him.

### ■ **Make to Take: Message Makers**

Before this activity, cut a ½-by-3-inch strip of paper for each child.

Set out markers, paper strips, tape, and red construction paper. Hand out index cards, and tell children to fold their cards in half. Let children decorate the outside of the cards using markers. Show children how to accordion-fold a strip of paper. Tape the folded paper to the center of the open card. Have children each cut out small hearts and tape them to the other end of the accordion-folded paper. Help each child write “Jesus” above the heart and “you” below the heart. Read the message aloud to the children. Point out that because Jesus loves us, ► Jesus helps us serve him. Encourage children to serve Jesus by giving their cards to someone outside of class.



### ■ **Treat to Eat: Crunch 'n' Quiet Snacks**

Provide quiet snacks and crunchy snacks. Crackers and raw carrot slices make loud crunching sounds, while banana slices, grapes, and raisins make quiet noises. Point out that Peter and John spoke out loudly and clearly to the people. Remind children that ► Jesus helps us serve him by helping them tell people about him loudly and clearly.



### ■ **Story Picture: Peter and John Speak Boldly About Jesus**

Hand each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out craft glue and a box of alphabet cereal. Help children pick out letters to spell the name “Jesus.” Then let children glue the letters beside Peter to show how Peter spoke boldly about Jesus. As children work, ask questions such as “Why did Peter keep telling people about Jesus?” and “Why does Jesus want us to tell others about him?” Explain that we can speak boldly about Jesus because ► Jesus helps us serve him.

# Today I learned...

Jesus helps us  
serve him.

Today your child learned that Jesus helps us serve him. Children learned that Peter and John spoke boldly about Jesus even when they were warned to stop. They talked about the importance of telling others about Jesus.

## Verse to Learn

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (Ephesians 2:10).

## Ask Me...

- Why did Peter and John tell people about Jesus?
- Who can you tell about Jesus?
- How can our family help others learn about Jesus?

## Family Fun

- Invite your child to make a plate of Tell-It Treats to share with someone in the neighborhood. Let your child decorate a plate of graham crackers with canned icing and colorful sprinkles or raisins. Then cut out a paper heart, and help your child write, "Jesus loves you" on it. Set the plate on someone's doorstep to remind them of Jesus' love.

## Peter and John Speak Boldly About Jesus (Acts 4:1-21)

