

10. Peter and John (Acts 3:1–4:22)

As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard. (Acts 4:20)



PLAN

Supplies

Deep Blue Resources: Large Group
Small Group Kit: CD-ROM | Leader Guide |
Adventure DVD

Additional Deep Blue Resources:

CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible | Deep Blue
Bible Storybook | Deep Blue Kids Bible
Dictionary

Basic Supplies: CD player | DVD
player | Television or projector and
screen | Offering Basket | Crayons |
Scissors | Mural paper | Tape |
Posterboard | Markers

Gather: Stopwatch or clock with
second hand | Bell

Explore: World map or globe

Respond: Lip balm

Before You Teach

The Book of Acts tells us about the early days of the church. It is the story of Jesus' followers after Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven. During his time on earth, Jesus prepared his followers to continue the work he had begun, telling people about God and sharing God's love.

In Bible times, Jewish people prayed in their homes at regular times during the day. On special days, they went to the temple to pray. One afternoon Peter and John were going to the temple to pray at the appointed time, when they met a man who could not walk. The man was begging outside the temple gate. Because he could not walk, the man was considered unclean by Jewish custom and was not allowed inside the temple. Peter and John did not have money, so instead, they restored his ability to walk. Peter healed the man, "in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene." It was important to Peter that everyone know the true source of the man's healing since there were often people present trying to perform healing in the names of other gods. When the man discovered he could walk, he entered the temple—for the first time in his life since he had been crippled since birth—and began to praise God. When Peter and John healed the man, they did more than allow him to walk; they gave him the ability to worship in the temple.

When the people who witnessed the healing began to praise Peter and John for what they had done, they explained it was not by their own power they were able to heal the man. Peter and John gave the credit to God—the God who raised Jesus from the dead. For speaking of the resurrection of Jesus, Peter and John were thrown into prison. The leaders in Jerusalem did not want the Jesus movement to spread. Ultimately, Peter and John are released from prison, but asked to stop talking about Jesus. Given a choice to obey God or obey the Jerusalem Council, Peter and John chose to continue to do God's work, assisted and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

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GATHER

Note

The following activities are planned to introduce today's theme. Depending on your setting, you may set up the gathering activities as centers and let the children choose, OR you may select one or more of the activities for all the children to participate in. You may also choose to use one or more of the activities during the Small Group Time at the end of the lesson.

Greeting

- Play the theme song, "All Are Welcome" (CD-ROM), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings.

SAY: Today our Bible story is about Peter and John.

Illustrate the Story (Art Activity)

Before class: Write each of the following sentences at the bottom of a separate piece of posterboard. 1. Draw a picture of a couple of coins in a basket. 2. Draw a picture of a man leaping. Write the word "Joy" at the top of the picture. 3. Draw a picture of two of Jesus' disciples in jail. 4. Draw a picture of a group of men looking stern and serious. 5. Draw question marks of all sizes covering the entire page. 6. Draw a STOP sign. 7. Draw a large speech bubble. Write the name, "Jesus," many times to fill up the speech bubble.

SAY: Today you are going to draw some pictures that will be used as illustrations when we hear the Bible story.

- Encourage the children to work together to draw the indicated illustrations on the posters.
 - Display the posters in order in your storytelling area.
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Time to Leap for Joy (Movement Activity)

SAY: We are going to play a leaping-for-joy game.

- Choose a child to be the first timekeeper. Have the timekeeper stand on one side of the room, facing the other side of the room.
- Let the rest of the children stand on the opposite side of the room, facing the timekeeper.

SAY: All of you except the timekeeper will say together, "What time is it?" The timekeeper will say, "It's two o'clock," or whatever time he or she chooses. You will each then count off the number of steps that correspond to what time it is. Then you will ask the question again. The timekeeper will respond again, and you will move again. At some point, the timekeeper will say, "It's time to leap for joy!" That is your cue to turn around and jump back to your side of the room. The timekeeper will chase you and tag someone to be the new timekeeper.

- Encourage the children to play the game.

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GATHER

Bible Verse Poster (Bible Verse Activity)

Before class: Photocopy "Bible Verse Poster—Acts 4:20" (Leader Guide—p. 105) for each child.

SAY: Our Bible verse for this month is from today's story.

- Invite each child to use crayons or markers to decorate the picture and frame.

OR

Leap! (Science Activity)

Before class: Cut a large piece of mural paper and tape it where the children will be able to write on it. Divide the mural paper in half. At the top of the left half of the paper, write, "Resting Heart Rate." At the top of the right half of the paper, write, "Exercise Heart Rate."

- Invite each child to find a partner. Have each pair of children designate one person to be the first leaper. The other child will be the recorder.

SAY: Find your partner's pulse. Place the index and middle fingers on your partner's wrist, below her or his thumb. Press lightly until you can feel your partner's pulse in your fingers. Each pulse represents a heartbeat. When I tell you to begin, start counting and continue until I tell you to stop.

- Time one minute while the recorders take their partners' pulses.
- Have each recorder write his or her partner's resting heart rate on the left side of the mural paper.
- Encourage each resting partner to then leap and jump around the room fifteen times while her or his recorder partner counts aloud.
- Have each recorder find his or her partner's pulse again.
- While the recorders count their partners' pulses, time one minute.
- Have each recorder write his or her partner's exercise heart rate on the right side of the mural paper.
- Have the children switch roles and repeat the experiment.

ASK: Who had the lowest resting heart rate? Who had the highest resting heart rate? What was the most common resting heart rate? Who had the lowest exercise heart rate? Who had the highest exercise heart rate? What was the most common exercise heart rate? Was it easier to feel your partner's pulse after he or she had been leaping?

SAY: Leaping is good exercise for our hearts.

Transition to Explore—Sacred Conversations

- Ring a bell to indicate to the children that it is Large Group Time, and have the children move to the large group area.

ASK: What do you do when you are feeling joyful?

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EXPLORE

See the Bible Story

- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 10 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

ASK: How do you serve others?

Hear the Bible Story

SAY: Today's story is from the Book of Acts. Acts tells the story of Jesus' followers after Jesus' resurrection.

- Read the children Acts 3:1–4:22 from the *CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*.
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Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Photocopy "Peter and John" (Leader Guide—p. 104) for each child.

SAY: Today some of you drew pictures to illustrate our Bible story.

- Read the Bible story from "Peter and John." Stand by the appropriate illustration as you read each part of the story.
- Thank the children for illustrating today's story.

ASK: What did the man Peter and John met ask them for? (*money*) What did Peter and John give the man instead of money? (*They healed the man so he was able to walk.*)

SAY: Because of Jewish customs at the time, people who were disabled were not allowed to enter the temple. After Peter and John healed the man, he was able to go into the temple and pray for the first time in his life.

ASK: How do you think the man felt when he went into the temple?

SAY: The Bible tells us the man was so happy, he began leaping for joy.

Sign the Bible Verse

SAY: It is a new month, and we have a new Bible verse.

- Show the Bible verse (Graphic 10a—CD-ROM).
- Encourage the children to read the verse together with you.

ASK: Who is speaking in this verse? (*Peter and John*)

- Show the children the signs for the Bible verse from American Sign Language (Graphic 10b—CD-ROM).

TIP: Look on the Deep Blue Kids website under the Free Stuff tab to see a video with the signs demonstrated.

- Invite the children to sign and say the Bible verse with you several times.

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EXPLORE

Praising Time

- Play the song, “Changed” (CD-ROM). Let the children dance as the music plays.

SAY: Let's spend some time praising God. I will tell you a way to praise God, such as, “Praise God by leaping for joy!” Continue to do that action until I call out another way to praise God. As you move about, be aware of other people so you don't run into each other. As you praise God with your body, thank God for the ability to move.

- Give the children the following instructions, allowing a time for them to follow each instruction before moving on to the next one:
 - Praise God by leaping for joy!
 - Praise God by marching!
 - Praise God by stomping your feet!
 - Praise God by clapping!
 - Praise God by hopping on one foot!
 - Praise God by placing your hands on your hips and twisting side to side!
 - Praise God by waving your arms overhead!
 - Praise God by jumping up and down!
 - Praise God by sitting down!

PRAY: God, we praise you and thank you for your never-ending love for us. Amen.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Photocopy “Mission Letter” (Leader Guide—p. 106) for each child.

SAY: This month we are going to be collecting a special mission offering. The money we collect will help support the ministry of the John Wesley Community Centre in South Africa.

- Encourage the children to find South Africa on the map or globe.

SAY: The John Wesley Centre provides help and support for children in the community. The money we raise will help them do their ministry.

- Give each child a copy of the mission letter to take home.
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Transition to Respond

SAY: Let's leap for joy like the man Peter and John healed in today's Bible story.

- Encourage the children to spend some time leaping.
- Dismiss the children to their small groups.

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RESPOND

Younger Elementary Small Group

Reflect and Connect

- Have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: Our Bible verse for this month tells us what Peter and John said when they were put in prison for talking about Jesus. They said, "As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

ASK: What do you like to talk about? What could you talk about for a long time? Has anyone ever asked you to stop talking about this subject?

- Invite the children to share their thoughts.

SAY: Let's see if we can talk about Jesus like Peter and John did. We'll go around the circle. Each person will say something about Jesus. It could be about his life or something he taught. When it's your turn, try to say something that hasn't been shared yet. Let's see how long we can talk about Jesus.

- Encourage the children to talk about Jesus.

SAY: Good job! You can tell people about Jesus like Peter and John did.

Blessing

- Have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: Each week during our Small Group Time, you will receive a blessing. Blessings help remind us we are important and loved by God. Today when I give you a blessing, I will use lip balm to draw a cross on the back of your hand. When it is your turn to receive a blessing, hold up your hand.

- Bless each child by using lip balm to draw a cross on the back of the child's hand.

SAY: (*Child's name*), God's love for you will never end.

At Home with God

SAY: When you go home today, tell your family about Peter and John.

- Send a copy of "Peter and John" home with each child.

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RESPOND

Older Elementary Small Group

Reflect and Connect

SAY: Let's review the story we heard today about Peter and John.

- Encourage the children to work together to retell the story.

SAY: Let's spend some time thinking about how the story might have turned out differently if Peter and John had made different decisions. Since we are using our imaginations, there are no right or wrong answers.

- Read the following questions. Encourage the children to use their imaginations in responding.

ASK: If Peter and John had given the man money instead of healing him, do you think the man would have remembered them? Do you think the story would have been written about in the Bible? If the man had gone home after Peter and John healed him rather than going into the temple with them and praising God, how would the story have turned out then? If Peter and John had taken credit for healing the man rather than telling the people about Jesus, what might have happened then? Do you think Peter and John would have still been arrested? If Peter and John had agreed to stop speaking about Jesus, how would the story have turned out differently? Would Jesus' message have spread?

SAY: You did a great job using your imaginations.

Blessing

- Have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: Each week during our Small Group Time, you will receive a blessing. Blessings help remind us we are important and loved by God. Today when I give you a blessing, I will use lip balm to draw a cross on the back of your hand. When it is your turn to receive a blessing, hold up your hand.

- Bless each child by using lip balm to draw a cross on the back of the child's hand.

SAY: (*Child's name*), God's love for you will never end.

At Home with God

SAY: When you go home today, tell your family about Peter and John.

- Send a copy of "Peter and John" home with each child.

10. Peter and John (Acts 3:1–4:22)

Bible Story



1. There was a man who had been crippled since birth. Every day people would carry him to the temple gate known as the Beautiful Gate, where he would sit and ask people for money. One day Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, came to the temple to pray and saw the man. The man asked them for money, but Peter and John didn't have any money.
2. The man looked at Peter and John, expecting them to give him money. But Peter said, "I don't have any money, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk!" Peter took the man's hand and pulled him up to his feet. The man realized his feet were working, and he began to leap for joy.
3. The man went into the temple with Peter and John, walking and leaping and praising God. Other people in the temple recognized the man as the same person who used to sit by the Beautiful Gate every day. People were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to the man. The temple guard seized Peter and John and put them in jail.
4. The next day, Peter and John were brought before a council of leaders and legal experts. The Council asked Peter and John, "By what power or in what name did you do this?" Peter, feeling inspired by the Spirit, addressed the Council boldly: "Are we on trial because something good was done for a sick person, a good deed that healed him? You should know that it is in Jesus' name that the man was healed."
5. Now the leaders weren't sure what to do. They sent Peter and John outside while they discussed the issue. "What should we do? What should we do? Everyone in Jerusalem knows they healed this man. We can't deny that. But we don't want this Jesus-thing to spread. We know! We will forbid them to talk about Jesus!"
6. The leaders called Peter and John back and demanded they stop speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus.
7. Peter and John were still feeling bold. They said, "If we have to make a choice between obeying you and obeying God, we choose God. We can't stop speaking about Jesus and about what we have seen and heard." Because of public support for Peter and John, the leaders could find no way to punish them, so they let them go.

(Based on Acts 3:1–4:22.)

At Home with God

DO THIS WITH YOUR FAMILY AT HOME: LEAP FOR JOY

Peter and John healed a man in Jesus' name. The man had been crippled from birth and was now able to walk. The man was so happy, he began praising God and leaping for joy.

Invite each member of your family to demonstrate what they think leaping for joy looks like.

Now do the following actions:

Clap for joy.

Jump for joy.

Stomp for joy.

What other active ways can you express joy?

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Bible Verse Poster—Acts 4:20



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Mission Letter



Mission Letter

SUPPORT John Wesley Community Centre

In South Africa, the John Wesley Community Centre serves vulnerable children who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. As of 2018, South Africa had the largest HIV epidemic in the world. The John Wesley Community Centre supports children who have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS, as well as children who have the virus. Here are some services that children can find at the Centre:

- An after-school program that provides homework help and fun activities
- A spelling team
- A chess club
- Marimba and recorder classes
- Gymnastics classes
- A computer center and library
- A preschool for kids ages 1–6
- HIV/AIDS awareness training for adults and children
- Community support groups
- Counseling

Through the John Wesley Community Centre, children and others are given emotional and educational support. The John Wesley Community Centre strives to create an environment which promotes change through active and real participation.

This organization serves the local community. Many women come to the John Wesley Community Centre to engage in self-directed projects making items they can sell. There are also teams who visit homes of persons who have physical disabilities and cannot leave their houses. Pastors and social workers take time caring for and supporting their emotional needs.

This month we have the opportunity to work together to support the work of the John Wesley Community Centre. We can do this by collecting donations, making cards and writing letters, praying, and learning more about the needs of this community. **You can donate through the General Board of Global Ministries Advance #3021238 by visiting <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-428-john-wesley-community-center.aspx>.**

