

Hey ClubE!

I MISS you! Even though we are not gathering together in our room, we are still a community. Let's accomplish our 3 goals together this morning.

1. Watch my [short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today!
2. Sharing time! Our question today: Who do you know that is *brave*?
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to me read it [here](#) :) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Play a game or do our craft!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

Storytime!

Hey, friends! We're picking up God's Big Story today just after Pentecost, which was the time when God sent His Holy Spirit to the believers. God in them and with them was just what they needed to start the mission Jesus had given them to tell the whole world about Him. There were a ton of people gathered in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. God's Holy Spirit gave Peter the ability to speak to the crowd. Peter told the people about who Jesus was, how He died on a cross for their sins, and how He rose from the dead. That day, 3,000 people put their faith in Jesus! And that was just the beginning. Every day, more and more people were coming to know Jesus and joining the believers! How exciting! As the church grew, the believers shared everything they had with each other. They shared their food, their things, and their homes. It must have been so exciting to be a part of the early church, but at the same time, it wasn't easy. Things quickly became difficult for the believers. In the book of Acts in the Bible, we can read about the difficulties the early church faced and how God brought them through it all.

We are going to learn about one of those hard times. There was a man who was born unable to walk and every day, someone would bring him to the temple gate, where he would sit and beg. One day, Peter and John were going to the temple as he passed by. The man asked Peter and John for money. Most people probably tried not to make eye contact with the man but they didn't. Instead, they stopped and looked right at him. Peter said (Act 3:6), "I don't have any silver or gold. But I'll give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk." Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter healed the man, and the man was able to walk! What? The Holy Spirit is so cool!

He went into the temple courtyards with Peter and John, where he praised God and jumped for joy! The healed man was making quite a scene, and he started to draw a crowd. The

people in the temple knew this was the same man who had been begging at the gate. They were amazed by what had happened to him. Peter wanted to make sure the people understood how he had been able to heal the man. So he spoke to them. "Peter said this to them (Act 3:12) "My friends, why is this surprising? God can do this and so much more! It is God who did this, not me!"

Peter could have easily taken the credit for healing the man. He could have allowed the people to praise him, but he wanted them to understand that God can do things that seem to be impossible. He also said (Acts 3:16), "This man whom you see and know was made strong because of faith in Jesus' name. Faith in Jesus has healed him completely. Peter took the opportunity to tell people about Jesus. He told them to turn away from their sin and to follow Jesus instead.

A lot of the people were amazed by Peter's message, but some weren't so happy about it. These leaders didn't like how everyone seemed to be turning toward Jesus. They didn't believe that Jesus is the Son of God. They were stuck in their old ways of thinking. When the religious leaders heard what Peter said, they became very angry. They didn't like Peter and John teaching about Jesus, even though it was the truth. The religious leaders and temple authorities arrested Peter and John.

The next day, a group of religious leaders, including a very important man and his family, met to determine what to do with Peter and John. They brought everyone together. The man Peter had healed was there, too. The leaders asked Peter and John how they had performed such an amazing miracle. "How could you do this?" they asked. "Who told you to do it?" This was definitely a sticky situation for Peter and John. If they told the truth. (Acts 4:8-10) "Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. He said to them, "Why are you asking this? Do you want to know why we were kind to a man who couldn't walk or how he got better? Then listen to this, you and all the people of Israel! You nailed Jesus Christ of Nazareth to the cross. But God raised him from the dead. It is through Jesus' name that man was healed!"

Peter decided to tell the truth again!

He knew that while the religious leaders believed in God, they didn't have the full picture. So through the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter used the opportunity to tell them about Jesus. He said: (Acts 4:12) "Jesus is the only one that can save you. Jesus is the only answer!"

This was a very bold statement. In fact, the leaders saw how courageous Peter and John were. They also realized the disciples were regular men who didn't have any special training to talk about God. It was clear that they had really been with Jesus, and that's why they were able to be so brave. There was nothing else the religious leaders could do. They were stuck. It was clear that Peter and John had healed a man; he was standing right there next to them! But the leaders didn't want anyone else to believe in Jesus. So they gave Peter and John a warning to never speak in Jesus' name again.

Peter and John replied: (Acts 4:20) "We have to tell people about all that God has done! We've seen it and heard what He can do!". Nothing could stop Peter and John. They had to continue to obey God and tell others about Jesus. The religious leaders couldn't find a reason to keep them in prison, so they let Peter and John go. Peter and John returned to their friends and told them everything God had done. The people praised God for what had happened. God had used that situation for great good! Lots of people who had seen the healed man and heard

Peter's message about Jesus put their faith in Him. In fact, the number of believers grew to about 5,000! Wow! That's a lot of people!

Let's talk about it!

- What is a time where you were kind to someone?
- What was a time when someone was kind to you? How did that feel?
- Why do you think Peter and John were so brave?
- Do you think YOU can be that brave?
- The gift that Jesus has given us is too important to keep quiet! How can you share that GREAT NEWS with other people this week?

Pray

God, thank You for being strong. Thank You for always being with us. Thank You for giving Peter and John the courage and determination they needed when they had to face the important people. We know there will be times in our own lives when things get tough and we feel like we want to quit. In those times, please give us strength to keep going and keep living Your way just like Peter and John did. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.

Game Time!

STAND THEM UP; KNOCK THEM DOWN

Today we learned about a time that people could get discouraged. It's so frustrating when you ALMOST had enough dominoes lined up, and then you accidentally knocked them down. But you had determination and kept going!

WHAT YOU NEED:

1. Dominoes or other similar rectangular(ish) objects that can be set up vertically

WHAT YOU DO:

- Quickly show kids how to stand several dominoes up on their ends in a row and then knock them down.
- Give your student about 20 dominos (you can do this by yourself OR in groups!)

Groups must line up a certain number of dominoes (your call on how many) before knocking them down.

- If they accidentally knock them down too soon, they must start over.
- Repeat as many times as you wish, telling kids a different number of dominoes to set up each time.

OR

TOUGH STUFF

Today you can create goo that's 'tough' when you squeeze it, but when you let go, it drips back down into the bowl. Today we're learned to keep going even when it gets tough. Just like the goo was tough sometimes, things in our lives can get tough sometimes. Maybe you start out on a school project, and it seems easy enough, but as you work on it, it gets tougher. Or maybe you get tired in gym class or soccer practice and think it's impossible to keep going. You know what? It's probably not. With determination, you can keep going, and not only that, but the next time it might even be easier!"

This is what you will create: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXkwv_zWL84

WHAT YOU NEED:

1. plastic tablecloth
2. paper towels
3. wet wipes
4. mixing bowls
5. cornstarch
6. pitcher of water
7. liquid measuring cup

WHAT YOU DO:

- Spread the tablecloth down where you are going to work.
- Place the bowls of cornstarch on the tablecloth
- Pour one cup of water into their bowl.
- Have student to mix up the water and cornstarch with their hand(s)
- Once it's all mixed up, encourage kids to play with the goo.
- Remind them to keep their hands over the bowl so they don't spread the mess around.
- Talk about what happens to the goo when you squeeze it in your fist versus when you open your hand.
- When you're finished, help kids clean their hands with the paper towels and wet wipes.