

CITY SG – May 20-22, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Under Pressure (Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin) • Acts 3:1–4:21

Today's Bottom Line: God is with you no matter what.

Monthly Memory Verse: So we can say boldly, "The Lord helps me. I will not be afraid." Hebrews 13:6a (NIV)

1. Level Up

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Carpet tape

What You Do:

- Divide the group into three teams.
- Tape a start line and instruct teams to stand behind it.
- Tape three more lines, evenly spaced, to the other side of your space.
- Stand across the room or space from the teams.
- Explain that teams will answer questions about today's story together, and if they answer correctly their team gets to "Level Up" to the next question.
- Each time a team answers correctly, guide them to hop, jump, leap, or move any other way a video game character might move, all the way to the next tape line.
- Keep the game fast-paced so kids don't get too wiggly.
- If a team gets a question wrong, save that question until you've gone through the entire list.
- After all questions have at least been attempted to be answered, circle back to those teams got wrong and ask them again, giving all teams a chance to "level up" to all the levels.
 - Level 1 Questions
 - What are the names of the two disciples in today's story? (*Peter and John*)
 - What job did they do before Jesus had called them? (*fishermen*)
 - Before Jesus returned to heaven, what did He leave His followers with? (*the Holy Spirit*)
 - Level 2 Questions
 - Where did Peter and John go in today's Bible story? (*the Temple*)
 - What did Peter and John go to the Temple to do? (*pray*)
 - While at the Temple, they met a man who couldn't do what? (*walk*)
 - Level 3 Questions
 - How were Peter and John able to talk to the people so boldly about what had happened? (*They had the Holy Spirit.*)
 - How were Peter and John able to heal the man who couldn't walk? (*through Jesus' name*)
 - How were Peter and John able to be so bold? (*They were confident because they knew God was with them no matter what.*)

What You Say:

"It's important for us to remember that we can be bold like Peter and John were. They knew Jesus had given the Holy Spirit to them, so they were confident that God was with them and could help them in everything they went through. They knew it was more important to heal a man in Jesus' name and even answer questions about it than to sit and do nothing. It's not easy to be bold and confident! But it's possible when we remember that **God is with you no matter what!**"

2. Toss Across

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, ball

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
- Recite the verse together a few times.
- Have the kids sit in a circle and give one child the ball.
- Ask that child to say the first word of the verse then throw the ball across to another child who says the second word.
- Continue tossing the ball to each other until you have finished the verse.
- Play a few times and, if possible, time how long it takes the group to complete the verse.
- Try to get quicker each time.

What You Say:

“No matter what’s going on in our lives, we can remember what this verse reminds us: because God is our helper who is always with us, we don’t have to be afraid. You can have confidence in every area of your life when you believe that **God is with you no matter what!**”

3. Better Together

Application Activity

What You Need: large piece of paper, markers

What You Do:

- Set the large piece of paper down and have the kids sit around it.
- Set the markers out.
- Review the bottom line for today, God is with you no matter what.
- Ask kids to think about places they have been when they knew God was with them
- Ask them to draw the place or places on the large paper.
- Have kids share what the places that God has been with them that they drew.

What You Say:

“How can you remind yourself that God is with you the next time you’re not feeling super-confident in your situation? (*Pray and ask to feel God’s presence. Talk to a friend who also follows Jesus. Talk to a trusted adult and ask for prayer.*) Just like having a friend by our side, we have God with us to help us in our own lives, too. Remember, **God is with you no matter what!**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Tell the kids you'll lead them in a CHAT with God.
- Remind the kids that the "C" stands for "Confess" which you talked about the first week and is when we tell God the wrong things we've done or said and ask for forgiveness.
- Remind them that the "H" stands for "Honor" and it's for telling God all the great things we're thankful for and giving honor to God for those things.
- Share that this week you'll continue the CHAT with the letter A, which stands for "Ask."
- Give kids time to bring their requests to God and ask for help in difficult situations or for wisdom to do the right thing.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

"Just like the last two weeks, we'll continue our CHAT with God! We call it a CHAT because praying is just like talking to God. And the letters in CHAT can help us learn how to talk to God! When we CHAT, the C means 'Confess' to God. We can have confidence that God will love us, no matter what we do. God loves us and wants to help us live a life that shows others who Jesus is.

"The H in CHAT stands for 'Honor God.' We can have confidence because God is always with us! By praising God for all the great things we know about God, we are showing honor to God.

"Today we'll talk about the letter A in CHAT. A stands for 'Ask God.' This is when we ask God about things that are in our hearts! Sometimes, we need God's help to make a wise choice in a tough situation. Sometimes we're having a hard time remembering that God is with us, so we can ask to feel God's presence with us. **God is with you no matter what**, even if you're going through something difficult. You can ask God to give you confidence to get through tough situations! When you choose to follow Jesus, God is always working in your life and promises to be with you, always. (*Pray with the kids.*)

"God, we confess our mistakes. We honor You for how good You are. We ask that You give us confidence to live a life that shows others who You are. Help us trust You in every area of our lives with the strength from Your Holy Spirit. When we believe that You're with us, we can have a faith that trusts You in every situation, conversation, and interaction with others. We love You, God, and thank You for everything You've done and everything You will do. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen!"