

Upper Elementary

WEEK 1- STARTER



Activity Name: Shadow Challenge

What You Need: None needed

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to pair up.
- Explain the “Shadow Walking Challenge.” One person in the pair is the “Leader,” and the other is the “Shadow.”
- The Leader walks around the room, and the Shadow must follow as closely as possible, mimicking all the Leader’s movements—walking, stopping, turning, maybe even doing a silly dance move.
- After a minute, instruct the kids to switch roles.
- For the final round, encourage everyone to find a new partner and play again.

What You Say:

That was fun! It takes a lot of focus to be a good shadow, right? This activity reminds me of our Bible lesson today, how Peter and John followed the lead of the Holy Spirit. Let’s go learn how we can be bold and persevere when things get tough, just like Peter and John.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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

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

Conversation Starter: What have you seen God do?

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think Peter and John were able to be so bold, even when the same leaders who killed Jesus were threatening them? What does that tell you about how the Holy Spirit helps us have courage today?
- The healed man didn't just walk—he leaped and praised God. What's something God has done in your life that makes you want to “leap,” even if you don't always show it? What stops you from showing your thankfulness sometimes?
- Peter told the religious leaders, “We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard” (Acts 4:20b NIV). What's something about Jesus you've “seen or heard” that you would find hard to stay quiet about?
- When life gets hard, what helps you **[Bottom Line] keep going because of what God has done?** Can you think of a time when you wanted to give up, but remembering something God had done helped you keep moving?

Activity Name: Codebreaker Message

What You Need: 'Codebreaker' activity page Answer key page Writing supplies

What You Do:

- Give each kid 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 kids to work together to crack the code and discover Peter’s bold message.
- After the message is decoded, announce the message together: “We have to speak about the things we’ve seen and heard.”

What You Say:

Great work, codebreakers! You uncovered Peter's message. Peter and John were ordinary men with no special training, but they had amazing boldness! Peter and John followed the lead of the Holy Spirit. They just did whatever He led them to do. We don't know for sure what the Holy Spirit led Peter and John to do, but talking about Jesus sure does sound like something He'd lead people to do. And that's what they did after God healed the man! Then, when the religious leaders tried to stop them, Peter and John refused to listen, even though they were in a dangerous situation—Jesus had been handed over to die by these very same religious leaders. But even knowing this, Peter and John were bold. They trusted God and followed the lead of the Holy Spirit. They were able to **[Bottom Line] keep going because of what God has done** and what God was continuing to do through His Spirit.

****Close in prayer. Invite kids to pray as well****