

# May 24 Lesson

Bible Passage: Acts 3—4

(Peter and John before the Sanhedrin)



## God Is Truth

### Remember Verse

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

### LESSON OVERVIEW

- 12 note cards
- Index cards (1 per person)
- Pencils or pens
- music and speaker

# LEADER PREP

*Each week you'll find a list of resources along with encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.*

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## **Inspire** *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

I was quite the evangelist when I was young. I became a Christian when I was five years old, and it was something I believed in and took to heart immediately. I knew that God is Truth and that Jesus is the way. I wanted all my friends to know Jesus, so I began preaching to them and urgently insisting that they know the truth and become believers. It never worked.

As I grew older and walked with God longer, I began to understand His truth in new ways. I realize now that it's the Holy Spirit who works, both in my life and the lives of people around me, to draw them to Him. I realize that knowing God's truth is more than just reciting verses. It's something to live out and experience as I go through each day with the reminder to love Him with all that I am and to love those around me as myself. The truth of God becomes much more meaningful and deep and real to me as I experience the joys and hardships of life.

What I continue to realize each day is that through His big story, God continues to reveal Himself as truth. He does it through His Word and the amazing faithfulness He shows throughout it. And He continues to do it today—drawing people to Himself, advancing His kingdom, showing us glimpses of the redemption that will one day be fully realized. God is Truth—He always has been and always will be.

*Denise Snyder*  
Crossroads Church

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## **Equip** *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

When the Holy Spirit came and filled the believers at Pentecost (Acts 2), everything changed. God empowered this new church made up of believers in Jesus, and the believers boldly shared God's truth with others.

In Acts 3, we read about the first recorded healing in the name of Jesus by His followers. This name of Jesus, declared to the beggar and in the following chapter to the Sanhedrin, means much more than simply a name. Jesus' followers are proclaiming the authority of Jesus. Only in His power and strength can they do these miracles and proclaim His truth.

This miracle gets everyone talking, which angers the Sanhedrin—the court of the Jews. The main opposition comes from the Sadducees, who don't believe in the resurrection of the dead. For even though we see Jesus in conflict with the Pharisees in the Gospels, they had similar theology, and the Bible often presents Pharisees (such as Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and Gamaliel) interested in or siding with Jesus.

Peter preaches a bold message to the Sanhedrin, and they're amazed because Peter lacks formal training. This doesn't mean Peter was uneducated—Jewish boys memorized large portions of the Old Testament by their teenage years, and this gives Peter the knowledge he uses to share about Jesus.

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## **Support** *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

We live in a time when truth is relative. Standards vary from person to person, and the thought of imposing one's truth on another has become offensive and politically incorrect. As Christians, we believe in one truth, but how do we communicate that to a generation of children who hear different messages in the media and at school? Consider the following questions: What was the concept of truth in society when you were growing up? How does that differ from what kids hear today?

The truth hasn't changed and never will. The ancient Israelites knew God as the one true God long before the culture around them did. And the way God asked them to communicate His truth was through the way they lived, loved Him, and treated others. That hasn't changed. We communicate that God is Truth by the way we live our lives, by the choices we make, and by the love we show to those around us.

As you interact with your children this week, remind them of God's truth through the way you live it out. Encourage them to show others the truth of God with their actions as they're empowered by the Holy Spirit in their lives. Pray for them this week, that they would clearly understand God's truth, that they wouldn't be swayed by false claims around them, and that even at a young age they would live God's truth in mighty ways.

## **CONNECT**//10 minutes



## Question or Risk

In this game, kids choose a card and answer a question or take a risk.

### **SUPPLIES**

- 6 note cards with questions written on them
- 6 note cards with risks written on them

### **PREPARE AHEAD**

Write the following questions on the cards:

- -If you were stuck on an island with only one person who would you want that person to be?
- -If you could have any superpower what would it be and why?
- -What is the strangest dream you have ever had?
- -What is the best gift you have ever received?
- -If you had one day to do anything you wanted, what would you do?
- -Where is your favorite place in your home and why do you like that place?

Write the following risks on the cards:

- Do a 15 second dance all by yourself
- Act like a gorilla for 20 seconds
- Try to lick your elbow
- Spin around 10 times then try to walk in a straight line
- Say the alphabet backwards as fast as you can

- Try to pick up an object (like a pen or a book) using just your feet

Place the Question cards in one stack and the Risk cards in another stack.

## RELATE

**CONNECT QUESTION:** Open your time by asking this question: **What are you most afraid of?**

**Sometimes sharing something personal about yourself can be as much of a challenge as taking an actual risk!**

Invite your family to play a game of Question or Risk. To play, ask one person to draw a card from the Question stack or Risk stack. If she draws a Question card, she must answer the question. If she draws a Risk card, she must do what the card says. After the person completes her card, invite another person to take a card. Continue until everyone has either answered a question about himself or taken a risk.

**GATHER//**30 minutes



## Remember Verse

Each week children will spend time memorizing a portion of Scripture together. The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

## Game: Verse Whispers

### SUPPLIES

- None

### RELATE

Ask your family to sit in a circle. Whisper the Remember Verse to one child in the circle and tell him to "pass on" the verse by whispering it to the person on his left. Then have this person whisper the verse to the person on her left and so on until the verse travels all the way around the circle. The last person to hear the verse should share what she heard. See how closely it matches the actual Remember Verse and recite the verse together as a family.

## Storytelling

**Bible Passage: Acts 3—4**

**Storytelling Technique: Settings, Objects, and Actions**

**God is Truth**

### SUPPLIES

- Storytelling video

### RELATE

**Have any of you ever been lost? How did you feel when you were lost?** Invite everyone to share their experiences or share one of your own. **Being lost can feel like you're in a maze—there are many paths to choose from but only one true way home. What is truth?** Invite responses. **If something is true, that means that it's right and real.**

**What is my true name?** Pause for responses. **What is the true name of our church?** Encourage answers. **What is the true month of the year we're in?** Invite answers. **Yes! For all of these questions, there is a true answer.**

**The only One who can teach us what is really true is God. He is always right, and He always knows what is true and good. Because God is Truth, He is the only One who can guide us in the right way to go. All throughout The Big God Story, people have discovered that God is Truth. It made them so excited that they wanted to follow God, even if it was scary or hard. Abraham left his home and went to the new land God showed him because he trusted that God was leading him in the right way and making true promises. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt because he trusted that God was telling the truth when He said that He would rescue His people. Let's pray and ask God to reveal His truth to us today.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Watch the storytelling video.

**After Peter and John left the jail, they continued to preach about Jesus. They knew God is Truth and faithfully shared this with others. Their belief in God's truth helped other believers to be strong in their faith as well. How do you think Peter and John could be so bold?** Invite responses. **Great thoughts. They had the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guides us in God's truth (John 16:13) and reminds us of God's truth (John 14:26). When we have the Holy Spirit to give us strength, and when we spend time with Jesus and know His Word, we will have what we need to be bold about God's truth as well.** Tell a story of a time the Holy Spirit led you into God's truth.

#### Discussion Questions

- **What miracle did God do through Peter and John?** Acts 3:6–7
- **How did the disabled man respond to what God did for him?** Acts 3:8
- **Why didn't the religious leaders like Peter and John?** Acts 4:2
- **What does it mean that God is Truth?**
- **What is something true that God has shown you?**

**RESPOND**//15 minutes



## Craft: Sharing Truth

Children will be given time to ponder and pray about what makes them afraid to share God's truth with others.

#### SUPPLIES

- Index cards (1 per person)
- Pencils or pens

#### RELATE

**Peter spoke boldly before the religious leaders because he was full of God's truth. He was overflowing with the truth of Jesus and couldn't stop talking about what he'd seen and heard. What is truth?** Invite responses. **Why is truth something we would want to share?** Invite answers.

**Knowing the truth is something good. It's something helpful for others to know. God is Truth. He is always right, and He always knows what is true and good. But sharing the truth isn't always easy. In fact, sometimes**

**it's scary! Why do you think this is?** Pause for responses. **The Bible says we don't have to be afraid because we aren't alone! We don't need to be afraid because God will never leave us and will always help us when we're weak** (2 Corinthians 12:9).

**What fears do you have that might keep you from sharing the truth?** Give an index card and pencil or pen to each person and invite them to write down or draw what makes them afraid to share the truth. Then invite the kids to share what they wrote or drew, if they're comfortable.

After the kids share their fears, invite them to pray together and ask God to help them give over their fears to Him and to fill them with truth that they'll want to give away. Encourage the children to look for opportunities this week to share their faith or help someone in need, even if it might seem hard or scary. The kids can draw on the back of them about how God's Holy Spirit helped them to be bold.

## Game: Freeze Dance

Today invite your kids to play Freeze Dance.

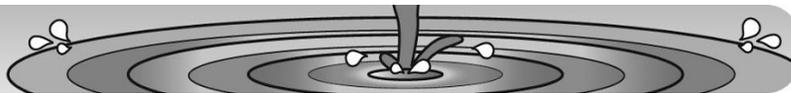
### SUPPLIES

- Upbeat music

### RELATE

**When Peter and John healed the beggar who couldn't walk, he immediately jumped up, started walking, and began to praise God.** Play upbeat music and have the children dance and wiggle around the room. Then stop the music without warning. When the music stops, the kids will freeze in place. Anyone who keeps moving is out of the game. Then resume the music and continue to play until one child remains. After the activity, discuss: **How do you think the crippled man felt when he was healed? When was a time you wanted to leap and praise God?**

**BLESS//** 5 minutes



### SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 3 (see Resources)
- Bible

### RELATE

Have your children stand in a circle and place their hands over their hearts as you read the blessing from Colossians 2:6–7.

**So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.**

**May your understanding of God's truth grow more and more, and may His truth lead you in every area of your life.**

Encourage the children to turn to the children on either side of them and say, "May you grow strong in God's truth."

Send home Remember Verse cards and the At Home Weekly with your kids.