

Peter Tells the Sanhedrin about Jesus

July 26th, 2020

Ask: Do you remember what we talked about last week?

Remind your children that we talked about the Holy Spirit and the special powers He gave to Jesus' followers. The Holy Spirit came over the followers and they were able to perform a miracle! The miracle they performed was that when they talked in their own language, many different people were able to hear them in many different languages, all at the same time. Remember, the Holy Spirit gives us power, too!

Explain: When someone is intimidated, they are a little frightened or scared of someone or something. Usually, this is because the person they are intimidated by is more powerful than the one who feels intimidated. (Feel free to explain intimidation however you'd like or give different examples.)

Discuss: Ask your children if there has ever been a time when they have felt intimidated.

- Maybe they were called to the principal's office
- Maybe they messed up playing a sport and their coach got on to them
- Maybe they accidentally broke something around the house and had to tell one of their parents

The story we're going to read has to do with a couple of Jesus' friends who were in a very scary situation. It would have been completely natural for them to feel intimidated, but that wasn't the case. Let's read and see what happened.

Read Acts 4:5-7

The Sanhedrin was a group of very powerful Jewish men. This meant they believed in God, but did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God or that He was resurrected from the dead.

SUNDAY STUDIES
for Kids

The Sanhedrin dealt with a lot of religious matters, as well as some legal ones, and they were opposed to anyone who followed Jesus. Peter and John, Jesus' two friends in this story, were brought in front of the Sanhedrin because they were caught teaching people that Jesus had raised some from the dead and healed people miraculously.

(The story of the lame man's healing is in Acts 3:1-10, if you'd like to read it with your children.)

Ask: Do you think Jesus' friends, Peter and John, felt a little scared to be in front of such powerful men? Why would they be scared?

Read Acts 4:8-12

Even though Peter and John may have been intimidated at first, that quickly went away when the Holy Spirit entered into Peter. The Holy Spirit gave Peter courage and wisdom that he did not have on his own. Peter told all of the Jewish leaders in the Sanhedrin that the man they healed was only healed because of the power of Jesus. Peter didn't stop there, though - he reminded them that their people (the Jews) are the ones who had Jesus crucified. This is pretty bold of Peter, isn't it? Finally, Peter says that Jesus is the only one who can save us...not ourselves. We cannot be good enough to earn our way into heaven. We cannot follow the rules (the Law) so perfectly that we are not guilty of sin. This went completely against what all of the men in the Sanhedrin believed.

Read Acts 4:13-14

The Jewish men were impressed by what Peter had to say. Not only did he speak boldly in an intimidating situation, but he spoke with much wisdom and even quoted Hebrew (Old Testament) scripture. Peter and John didn't have schooling like what these Jewish men in the Sanhedrin did, so it was amazing that Peter was able to quote scripture off the top of his head like he did. It says in verse 13 that the men were "amazed and recognized that (Peter and John) had been with Jesus." Even more than that, the very man Peter and John had healed was standing right there with them. The men of the Sanhedrin had nothing to say in opposition. In other words, they were speechless.

Remember, Peter and John's boldness is nothing they could take credit for. Their boldness was all a work of the Spirit. We can be bold, too, because of the Holy Spirit's work in us!

Activity: Memorize Scripture

Materials Needed: a Bible

Remember how Peter used Old Testament scripture in front of the Sanhedrin? It's important for us to memorize scripture and have it written on our hearts and minds, so that when we face different experiences in life, we are able to think back on God's words to guide us through. Here is a great place to start, but don't stop here...challenge your children to memorize a new verse every week, no matter how large or small.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-5)