

# Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus

Acts 4:5-14

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS

## Earthly Power

The Sanhedrin was the ruling body of the Jews. It had authority in all religious matters. One of the Sanhedrin's duties was to deal with cases of blasphemy. Members of the Sanhedrin probably viewed Peter's and John's actions as blasphemy. Peter and John claimed that they were able to heal a man—something only God could do—through the power of Jesus. So they called Peter and John before them.

## Heavenly Power

When asked the source of his power to heal, Peter replied that the power came from Jesus, whom God had raised from the dead. The Sanhedrin had tried to cover up the Resurrection (Matthew 28:11-15), but Peter contended that the healed man standing before them proved that Jesus is alive.

The disabled man was healed through Jesus' power, and Peter's forceful speech before this powerful group of religious leaders was made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8). God was with Peter in a special way, as Jesus had promised he would be when people were going about his work (Matthew 28:20).

## Powerful Truth

Why didn't the Sanhedrin immediately denounce Peter and John? Perhaps the truth, told with such power, dumbfounded them—or even convinced them of what they really had done.

In verse 12, Peter indirectly heaps on more accusation. By saying that salvation is only through Jesus, Peter was saying the leaders' beliefs and actions were insufficient for that purpose. He was saying that if they continued to deny Jesus, no other power was available to save them. If they continued

along this course, they were also leading their nation toward destruction.

What was the Sanhedrin's response? Astonishment! How could these simple men, with no training in the Jewish rabbinical schools, mount such a clear and convincing biblical and theological argument? They may have remembered the similar things they had thought about Jesus (John 7:15). Jesus had supported his claims through the miracles he had performed, and now the disciples had done the same. Everyone had seen the disabled man begging at the Temple, and now he stood before them, healed. What could they say? The Sanhedrin had no answer.

## The Jesus Connection

Two things gave Peter courage in this intimidating situation. First, he was relying on the Holy Spirit, and second, he knew that Jesus is alive. This knowledge gave Peter full and ultimate trust in Jesus.

We have the same Holy Spirit that empowered Peter. What more do we need to be courageous in the situations we face today? Ask God to help you with a particular situation you're facing. You can write your prayer here.

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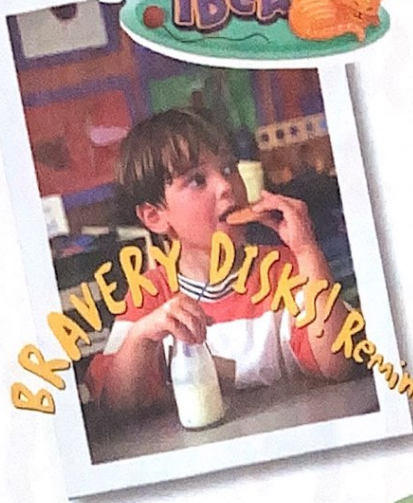
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**HOMESPUN  
IDEA**



**Make Bravery Disk cookies** with your child this week. For simple sugar cookies, use:

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/3 cup butter or margarine | 1 egg                    |
| 1/3 cup shortening          | 1 teaspoon vanilla       |
| 3/4 cup sugar               | 2 cups all-purpose flour |
| 1 teaspoon baking powder    |                          |

Beat all ingredients, and roll dough to 1/8 inch. Then show your child how to cut dough into disk shapes by dipping the open end of a glass in flour and pressing it down onto the dough. Bake the cookies at 375 degrees for 7 to 8 minutes. Your child might remember from class that God fills us with bravery just as the cookies fill us up.

*Remind your child that God helps us be brave.*

**Daily  
Challenge**

**This week, your child learned** that God helps us be brave. Your child committed to one of the following challenges to ask God to help him or her be brave. Help your child weave faith into life this week and follow through on the challenge!

- Ask God to help you be brave when you wake up from a bad dream.
- Ask God to help you be brave and make a new friend.

**Outdoor  
Family Fun**



**Have a bravery hunt** in your backyard on a nice day. Purchase hollow plastic eggs or other small hollow objects to fill with items that represent being brave and strong. For example, you might use a rock, a nut and bolt, or a soldier figure. You may want to take turns hiding and finding the eggs. Say, "God helps us be brave," with your child.

**What I Learned Today...**

**Bible Time:** When Peter and John were brought in front of the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:5-14) to be questioned, they may initially have felt fear because of the Sanhedrin's supreme authority, influence, and power. But God gave them the courage they needed to speak boldly about Jesus. Young children are fearful of many things and may find it difficult to believe that an invisible God could help them be brave. As you read the Bible to your child this week, emphasize that God is with him or her all the time, even if he can't be seen. Explain that God helps us be brave in all situations, just as he helped Peter and John.

**Key Verse:** The Holy Spirit will teach you (adapted from John 14:26).