



CONFIDENCE | WEEK 3 | MAY 21, 2023

4th-5th Lesson

Under Pressure

Monthly Virtue: Confidence—Living like you believe God is with you

Bible Story: Under Pressure (Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin) • *Acts 3:1-4:21*

Key Question: When have you needed help?

Bottom Line: God is with you no matter what.

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

Memory Verse: So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.”
Hebrews 13:6a (NIV)

**KID CONNECT:
5 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
25 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP
25 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

We might try to base our confidence on what we do well, or what someone might say about us. But true confidence should be built on something different. We think it's found in understanding how God is both big enough to create the universe, but also close enough to be right here with us. We know that we can trust God no matter what. We are created in God's image. And God loves us so much! Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, when we trust Jesus with our life, the Holy Spirit is there to help us face whatever comes our way. We can respond to God's love and care with confidence!

Key Question: **When have you felt under pressure?** When we remember how we've gotten through difficult times in the past, it can help us face those moments in the future. We pray that as kids discover what it feels like to be under pressure, they'll discover how they can make a plan to trust God in those moments and find the confidence to keep going. God can give them the confidence they need when the pressure is on.

In **Acts 3:1 4:21**, we see that Jesus' mission wasn't going to be easy for the disciples. Luke tells us that Peter healed someone in the name of Jesus and ended up causing quite a stir. As people gathered, Peter and John used this moment to share the message of Jesus. Soon though, the religious leaders arrested them and had them stand trial. Peter and John showed confidence in Jesus. They made it clear that no matter what happened to them, they would continue sharing Jesus' love with others.

Bottom Line: **God is with you no matter what.** At some point, kids will learn that even when we follow Jesus, life won't always be easy. However, we want them to learn as soon as possible that we are promised that God will always be with us. Just because a situation we face is difficult, that doesn't mean it's time to give up. We pray that kids will learn to lean into the power of God and have the confidence they need to keep going.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

OPENING ACTIVITY:

(No Supplies)

During this time, concentrate on getting to know your group and building a relationship among you all. Create a place where they feel like someone knows them and that they belong. A great way to do that is to pull them into an activity (coloring, LEGOs, etc.) and ask them questions. Here are some suggestions:

- What are some highs/lows from your week?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- If you could ride on any animal, what would be the most fun/most difficult?
- Do you have any siblings/pets? What are their names?

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins (9:35/11:20). While the countdown is happening, you are encouraging kids to clean up and engaging with the ones that are ready for large group.

LGL: "Welcome everyone! I'm so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today by playing a game, singing some incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God's Word, the Bible.

"Before we play a game, just a few announcements..."

(SLIDE: MSM TOURS) If you are in 5th grade going into 6th, you have a couple of opportunities to go over and check out the Middle School service before you move up. The first tour is TODAY! You and your small group leaders can head on over.

(SLIDE: BAPTISM) *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!” T

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

LARGE GROUP GAME

VIDEO GAME TRIVIA

(No Supplies)

“This week we are continuing our conversation on CONFIDENCE.

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) Confidence is living like you believe God is with you!

(SLIDE: THEME)

“When you have THAT kind of confidence, you can ‘raise your game’ in a big way!

“Speaking of games, let’s play one!

(SLIDE: GAME)

“We are going to play a game of video game trivia. You will have multiple choices. Kind of like the game of 4 corners, you will choose your answer by going to the corner that represents choice A, B, C, or D. *(Take a minute to point out which corners will represent each letter)* If you get it wrong, no worries. There are no outs.

“Ready? Ok, everyone stand up.”

(SLIDES: VIDEO GAME TRIVIA SLIDES #1-12)

Each question will have a question and an answer slide. There are 6 questions total.

Keep energy high as you work through the questions and answers.

“Great job! That was a ton of fun. Ok let’s all get ready to worship God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: RIVER, TOP OF MY LUNGS)

BIBLE STORY

(No Supplies)

“We are continuing to learn about God’s Big Story. Right now, we are talking about the Early Church

(SLIDE: TIMELINE)

“Jesus was no longer there with His followers in person. But He promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to the people who believed in Him. Sure enough, at the feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the believers, and they were able to speak in languages they had never known before. Thousands of people who were in Jerusalem at the time heard what Peter had to say about Jesus, and thousands of them put their faith in Jesus, right then and there!

“Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the early church grew and grew every day. More and more people began to believe that Jesus really is the Son of God, and the Savior of the world.

“Today, we get to look at what happened next...”

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY – 6 MIN)

“Just like last week’s story – where God used Peter to bring 3000 people to a relationship with Jesus, it wasn’t Peter on his own who was talking to the people. It wasn’t *just* Peter talking to the religious leaders, defending why he healed a man in Jesus’ name. It was Peter with the Holy Spirit inside of him, helping him, giving him the words.

“Friends, when you choose to follow Jesus, God promises to be with you. Always. Since the Holy Spirit – who is God – lives inside of you, you’ve got a personalized guide, a helper, a comforter to make sure you get through any tough situation you face. Think about it – Peter and John were jailed and hauled in front of powerful leaders. None of us have experienced that, I hope, but since the Holy Spirit helped them in that situation, think how much He can help you in yours!

“The Holy Spirit is always present and at work in your life. Always. Just knowing that can give you tons of confidence—the same type of confidence that Peter and John had. Having a hard go of it? Stuck in a situation where you can’t see a way out? Talk to God. Ask the Holy Spirit for help. It’s like our verse says...

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE) *“So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.’ (Hebrews 13:6a, NIV)*

“When you read the verses around our memory verse, the author talks about all of these things that people who don’t have a relationship with Jesus worry about or do that don’t follow God’s best for our lives. When we have a relationship with God, those worries or sinful desires no longer have control of our lives. The Holy Spirit helps us trust Him and have the courage to make decisions that honor Him and are for our good and His glory. It can be hard to trust God to help us when we are going through hard things. That’s why it’s important to remember this basic truth...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.

“You can ALWAYS pray and ask God to help you with whatever you’re going through – EVEN asking Him to help you trust Him more. Before we pray, let’s ask ourselves this question...

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) When have you felt under pressure?

“Trapped, cornered, helpless, or hopeless? If you know you’re doing something right or you know you have to stand up for what’s right, *that’s* when you can trust God to help you, whatever you face! Let’s pray and ask God to help us out in those times.”

PRAYER

“God, thank You so much for being with us through whatever challenges we might face in life. Thank You for this reminder that no matter what’s happening in our lives, we can have confidence that You’re there to help us. Please help us live with confidence just like Peter and John did. We thank You and praise You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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In Middle School Ministry (MSM), small group time shifts from being more activity based (in KidCity) to being majority discussion based. In order to ease the transition for your rising 6th graders, take the time to lean more into the discussion questions during small group.

LEVEL UP

(No Supplies)

What You Do:

- Divide the group into three teams.
- Tell kids that they will have opportunities to ‘level up’ like Mario when he eats the apple and grows. They will start at sitting, then squatting, and then standing.
- Explain that teams, one at a time, 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 sit, squat, or stand.
- 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
 1. What are the names of the two disciples in today’s story? (*Peter and John*)
 2. What job did they do before Jesus had called them? (*fishermen*)
 3. Before Jesus returned to heaven, what did He leave His followers with? (*the Holy Spirit*)
 - Level 2 Questions
 1. Where did Peter and John go in today’s Bible story? (*the Temple*)
 2. What did Peter and John go to the Temple to do? (*pray*)
 3. While at the Temple, they met a man who couldn’t do what? (*walk*)
 - Level 3 Questions
 1. How were Peter and John able to talk to the people so boldly about what had happened? (*They had the Holy Spirit.*)
 2. How were Peter and John able to heal the man who couldn’t walk? (*through Jesus’ name*)
 3. 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:

“Great job of Leveling Up today! You were really paying attention to the Bible story, and I love how you worked together. 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 **[Bottom Line] God is with you no matter what!**”

[Make it Personal] (Share about a time you had to choose to be bold. Maybe it was a time you had to stand up for a classmate or neighbor or had to choose to include someone who was left out even though others were ignoring them. Help kids see that being bold takes confidence and our confidence comes from knowing **[Bottom Line] God is with you no matter what.**)

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- Why is it sometimes difficult to make decisions?
- When have you felt under pressure?
- How can believing God is with you give you confidence?
- Is it easier to remember that God is with you when things are going well or when things are going badly?
- What can you do to remind yourself that God is with you no matter what?

SEAT SWAP

(“Seat Swap” Activity Pages – 1 set precut per group, “Bible Story Seat Swap” Activity Page)

What You Do:

- Have kids sit in a circle
- Pass out the pairs of the “Seat Swap” to the kids (be sure the pairs aren’t sitting next to each other). If one kid is left out without having a pair – great! They get to stand in the middle first.
 - If you have an even number of players, then you also get to participate! Choose yourself to stand in the middle first.
- Tell kids that you’ll retell the Bible story while emphasizing certain words.
- When they hear the word that’s on the paper they’re holding, they should stand up and swap seats with the other kid who has that same word.
- Direct the kid in the middle to try to sit on one of the available spots before either of the two kids swapping seats sits down.
- If the kid in the middle succeeds, the kid without a seat becomes the new kid in the middle. Pass off the “seat swap” paper.
- Read the retelling of the Bible story using the “Bible Story Seat Swap” Activity Page at a pace that’s comfortable for the kids.

- *Option: To add an additional challenge, whenever you say the word, “confidence,” ALL kids have to stand and change their seats and the kid in the middle tries to grab a spot!*

What You Say:

“That was a really fun and chaotic way to review today’s story! In the story, we heard how Peter and John had confidence in who Jesus called them to be. They had so much confidence, in fact, that they trusted God, even when they were in a scary situation—being thrown into prison.

“We can have confidence, too! With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can have strength and confidence to live how Jesus wants us to live and be who God wants us to be. You can go through anything, learn anything, and face anything because *[Bottom Line]* **God is with you no matter what.**”

[Make it Personal] (Share how your own life looks and feels different when you trust that God is with you, no matter what. What are some tough situations, problems, or frustrations where you were able to trust that God was with you? How is it helpful to trust God in everyday conversations and interactions?)

PRAY AND DISMISS

(Preteen Devotionals - 1 per kid)

What You Say:

“Thank You, God, for always being with us, no matter what. Thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit and Your Word to guide us. When we’re afraid, help us remember the wonderful truth that You are with us, no matter what. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

Pass out the Devotionals to each kid. If there’s spare time, encourage kids to start looking over it and point out how it relates to today’s lesson.