



CONFIDENCE | WEEK 3 | MAY 21, 2023

## K-3rd 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*

**Bottom Line:** God is with you no matter what.

**Basic Truth:** I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.

**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!*

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, KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS, BROUGHT A FRIEND, BAPTISM)

*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: 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!”

**(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

**(Bible)**

“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)**

“I love this story so much because of how confident Peter and John were! They weren’t scared to be in front of the religious leaders.

“It’s not like Peter and John were superheroes. They were just ordinary, regular guys! But they were bold in the face of trouble because they knew that, whatever happened, God was with them.

“Remember . . .

**(SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE) God is with you no matter what.**

“If you have a relationship with God – meaning that you’ve decided to make Him your Lord and Savior – then the Holy Spirit, who is God, lives within you always. You can put your confidence in God and know for SURE that God is with you. God is with you when things are going great, and God is with you when they aren’t going well at all. When you put your faith in Jesus, you can be sure that the Holy Spirit is working in your life and helping you to live God’s way. The Holy Spirit can comfort you when you’re sad and give you courage when you feel nervous or scared.

“It’s like we read in our memory verse, Hebrews 13:6 . . .

**(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.

“Let’s pray.

## 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

**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**

**Bottom Line: God is with you no matter what.**

**Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.**

**Memory Verse: So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.”**

**Hebrews 13:6a (NIV)**

## 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.**)

## BETTER TOGETHER

(Blindfolds, Ping Pong Balls, Cups, and Spoons - 1 per 2 Kids)

### What You Do:

- Guide the kids to get in pairs.
- Set one cup for each pair of kids at a random spot in your small group space.
- Give one kid in each pair a blindfold, a ping-pong ball, and a spoon.
- Invite the kid to put the blindfold on and hold the ping-pong ball in the spoon.
- The kid in the pair who is not blindfolded will be the guide.
  - *To make this more challenging, have the guides stand in a circle on the outside of the cups to help keep the blindfolded kids in bounds, and to add to the noise confusion.*
- Direct the pairs to work together to take their ping-pong ball on the spoon across the room, avoiding other kids, and put their ping-pong ball in their cup. Instruct the blindfolded kids to spin 10 times before they begin. If they drop their ball before getting it close to the cup, they have to spin once. The non-blindfolded kid can put the ball back on the spoon.
- When all kids get their ball in the cup, take a break and read the “**What You Say**” section below. Then play again and switch players

### What You Say:

“It would have been really difficult—and a little dangerous—to navigate this room and get our ping-pong ball in the cup if we were on our own! Thankfully, we had someone with us to help us move with confidence. Who in our lives can help us move with confidence? *(God, The Holy Spirit)* How do you think Peter and John were able to stand up for what they believed in and continue teaching about Jesus, even when they had been taken before the court and could have been punished for it? *(They knew they were doing the right thing. They were doing what God wanted them to do. They had confidence through God’s Holy Spirit. They knew God was with them.)*

“How can you remind yourself that God is with you the next time you’re not feeling super-confident in your situation? *(Pray and ask to feel God’s presence. Talk to a friend who also follows Jesus. Talk to a trusted adult and ask for prayer.)* Just like having a friend by our side, we have God with us to give us confidence in our own lives, too. Remember, **[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?

## PRAY AND DISMISS

**(K/1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Devotional, Crayons or Markers)**

### 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 Devotional to each kid. If there’s spare time, the kids can start looking over it.