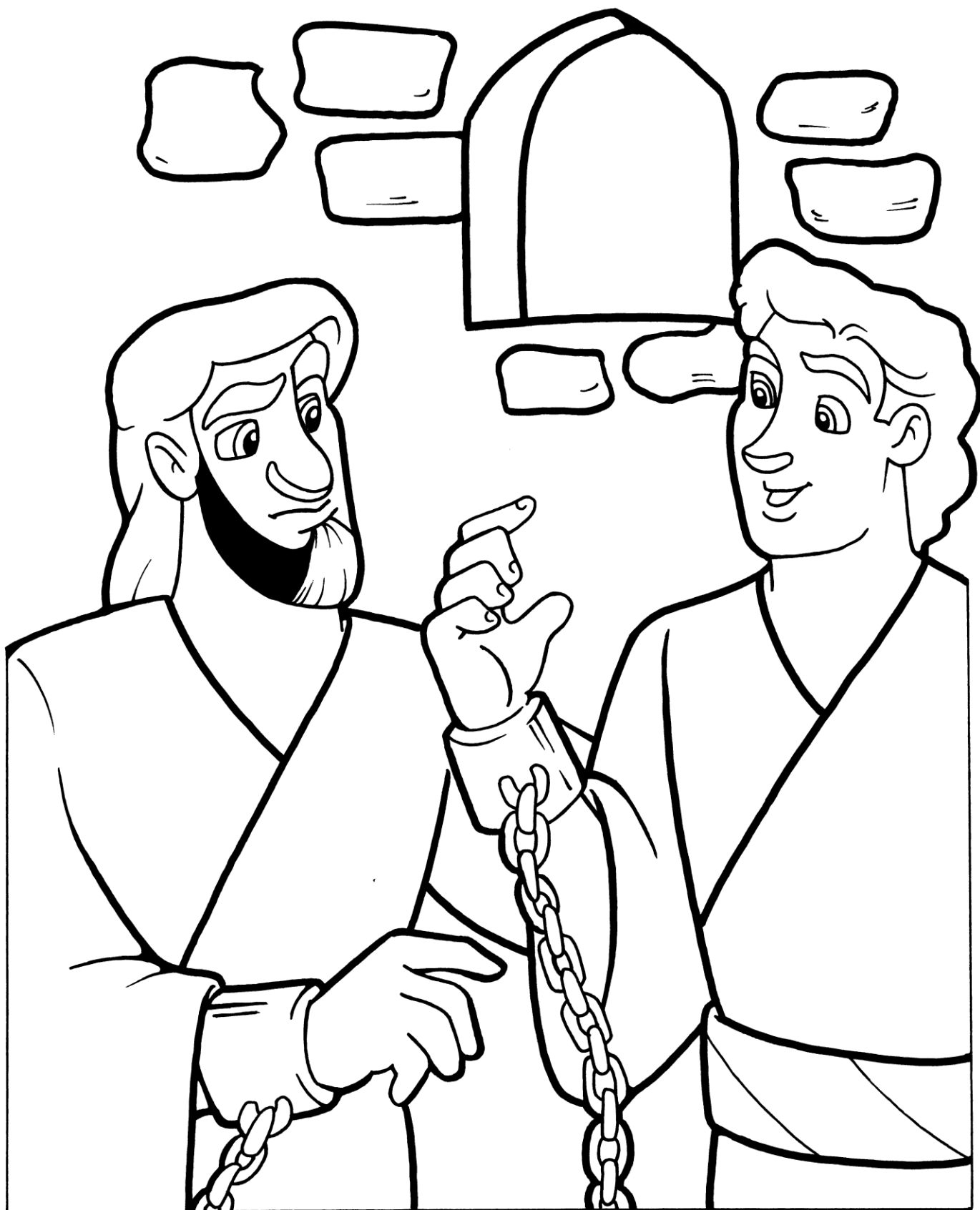


Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 248: PETER & JOHN ARRESTED AND RELEASED
ACTS 4:1-31

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, some Jewish leaders came up to them. There were some priests, the captain of the soldiers that guarded the Temple, and some Sadducees. They were upset because of what Peter and John were teaching the people. By telling people about Jesus, the apostles were teaching that people will rise from the dead. The Jewish leaders grabbed and arrested Peter and John and put them in jail. It was already night, so they kept them in jail until the next day. But many of the people who heard the apostles believed what they said. There were now about 5000 men in the group of believers. The next day the Jewish rulers, the older Jewish leaders, and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander were there. Everyone from the high priest's family was there. They made Peter and John stand in the middle of them all, before all the people. They asked them over and over, "How did you make this crippled man well? What power did you use? By whose authority did you do this?" Then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said to them, "Rulers of the people and you older leaders, are you questioning us today about what we did to help this crippled man? Are you asking us what made him well? We want all of you and all the people of Israel to know that this man was made well by the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. You nailed Jesus to a cross, but God raised him from death. This man was crippled, but he is now well. He is able to stand here before you because of the power of Jesus! Jesus is 'the stone that you builders thought was not important. But this stone has become the cornerstone.' Jesus is the only one who can save people. His name is the only power in the world that has been given to save anyone. We must be saved through him!" The Jewish leaders understood that Peter and John had no special training or education. But they also saw that they were not afraid to speak. So the leaders were amazed. They also realized that Peter and John had been with Jesus. They saw the crippled man standing there beside the apostles. They saw that he was healed, so they could say nothing against the apostles. The Jewish leaders told them to leave the council meeting. Then the leaders talked to each other about what they should do. They said, "What shall we do with these men? Everyone in Jerusalem knows about the miracle they did as a sign from God. It's too obvious. We can't say it didn't happen. But we must make them afraid to talk to

anyone again using that name. Then this problem will not spread among the people." So the Jewish leaders called Peter and John in again. They told the apostles not to say anything or to teach anything in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "What do you think is right? What would God want? Should we obey you or God? We cannot be quiet. We must tell people about what we have seen and heard." The Jewish leaders could not find a way to punish the apostles, because all the people were praising God for what had been done. This miracle was a sign from God. The man who was healed was more than 40 years old. So the Jewish leaders warned the apostles again and let them go free. Peter and John left the meeting of Jewish leaders and went to their own group. They told the group everything that the leading priests and the older Jewish leaders had said to them. When the believers heard this, they all prayed to God with one purpose. They said, "Master, you are the one who made the sky, the earth, the sea, and everything in the world. Our ancestor David was your servant. With the help of the Holy Spirit he wrote these words: 'Why are the nations shouting? Why are the people planning such useless things? The kings of the earth prepare themselves to fight, and the rulers all come together against the Lord and against his Messiah.' That's what actually happened when Herod, Pontius Pilate, the other nations, and the people of Israel all came together against Jesus here in Jerusalem. He is your holy Servant, the one you made to be the Messiah. These people who came together against Jesus made your plan happen. It was done because of your power and your will. And now, Lord, listen to what they are saying. They are trying to make us afraid. We are your servants. Help us to say what you want us to say without fear. Help us to be brave by showing us your power. Make sick people well. Cause miraculous signs and wonders to happen by the authority of Jesus, your holy servant." After the believers prayed, the place where they were meeting shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak God's message without fear.

248. PETER & JOHN ARRESTED AND RELEASED
ACTS 4:1-31



“And they laid hands on them, and put them in jail until the next day; for it was already night.” **ACTS 4:3**

248. PETER & JOHN ARRESTED AND RELEASED

ACTS 4:1-31

MEMORY VERSE:

"....They realized that they had been with Jesus." ACTS 4:13

Review Questions

True or False

1. The priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees were upset about what Peter and John had been teaching the people.
2. They grabbed and arrested Peter and John and put them in jail.
3. Many people who heard the apostles did not believe.
4. They put Peter and John in the middle of them all and kept asking them over and over, "How did you make this man well? What power did you use? By what authority did you make him well?"
5. But Peter did not answer them at all.
6. When they saw that Peter and John didn't have any special education and that they were not afraid to speak, they were amazed and realized they had been with Jesus.

Questions

1. When the Jewish leaders asked Peter and John how they were able to make the man well, and when they asked them what power they used, Peter answered them and told them that he was made well by the power of _____ (Jesus Christ of Nazareth).
2. Did the Jewish leaders want Peter and John to keep teaching about Jesus?
3. When they told Peter and John not to speak or teach any more about Jesus, what did Peter and John tell the Jewish leaders?
4. Did they keep Peter and John in jail, or did they let them go?
5. When Peter and John went and told all the other believers what happened, and what the Jewish leaders had said to them, what did all the believers do?
6. After they all prayed, what happened?

Lesson 248 Craft/Activity

The Faithful Witness

Make as many copies of the “faithful witness” pattern as the number of children in your class. They can decorate their witness with markers or crayons and string or yarn to look like themselves or someone they know who shares the gospel.

Cut the two slots for the “mouth” piece, slide the piece into the “witness” face and have your children take turns using their faithful witnesses to share the gospel message.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: When telling the story, or telling another story, have a puppet with you. Tell the kids you are going to use the puppet to help tell the story. Leave the puppet just laying there while you tell the story, and when you finish the story, ask the children, “What do you think is wrong with this puppet?” When they tell you “It doesn’t have your hand in there, you’re not moving it, etc” – Tell them that this is the same way with God – we can’t share the Gospel of Jesus effectively without being filled and led by the Holy Spirit. Just like when Jesus told His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, we also need to be filled with the Holy Spirit just like the puppet needed the hand inside it to work correctly!

Prize Share

Choose two children to serve a small prize to the class. Instruct the class to “beg” for their prize as if it was food and they hadn’t had anything to eat for a long time.

Ask them if they would give food to someone they knew was hungry. Explain that witnessing is even better than sharing food, because it can give life for all eternity and that is the biggest prize we can ever receive. Remind the class that **The Holy Spirit will give us boldness to share the gospel with others.**

A person filled with the Holy Spirit is actively serving God. Through their actions and words, they are allowing God to work through them by His power. The Holy Spirit will give us boldness to have the courage to press through our fears and do what we know is right. We all need to be bold in our witness for Jesus.

To gain boldness, we can:

1. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to give us courage, He will help us.
2. Look for opportunities in our families and neighborhoods to talk about Jesus.
3. Start by being bolder in small ways.
4. Realize that everyone has a responsibility to accept or reject the gospel, but it is our responsibility to tell him or her.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to look for opportunities to share what Jesus has done for us. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.

