



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Worship Leaders or other adult helpers (to pass out cookies)
- Oreo Cookies (10 Cookies, 2 per student plus 2 for a leader)

#### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Upbeat music for the game

#### *Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):*

- AMPED Theme Slide
- Confidence Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

#### What You Do:

- Put enough cookies for each contestant to have 2 cookies per person.

### 2. Bible Story

#### What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Three kid volunteers (boys)
- Two adult Leaders (to carry the kid volunteer onto the stage)
- Three other adult Leaders (to be the religious leaders in the story)
- Prop box containing:
  - Three biblical robes or bathrobes (kid-size); ideally, 2 of these robes should be similar in style (for Peter and John)
  - Three biblical robes or bathrobes (adult-size); similar in style, but different from the Peter and John robes
  - Three fake beards (*optional*)
  - Fishing Net
  - Four PVC pipes (for jail bars)

*Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):*

- Bottom Line Slide
- “Religious Leader” Cue Cards (see “What You Do”)

### **What You Do:**

- Place the items in the prop box and set it backstage where the Storyteller can easily grab it before going on stage.

## **3. Worship**

**Alive**

**Never Gonna Stop Singing**

# He Won't Back Down

**Bible Story:** He Won't Back Down (Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin) • Acts 4:1-22  
(Supporting: Acts 3)

**Bottom Line:** When Jesus is with you, you can face anything.

**Memory Verse:** "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." *Philippians 1:6, NIV*

**Life App:** Confidence—Living like you believe what God says is true

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX:** Play high-energy music as kids enter.

**CG:** AMPED Theme Slide

*Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.*

### Opener

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! How are you feeling? Are you AMPED? Are you ready for anything? Are you confident?"

**CG:** Confidence Slide

"**Confidence is living like you believe what God says is true.** It's making choices based on what you know is true about God. It's [**Basic Truth**] **trusting God no matter what**—when life is going great OR when you're facing something tough.

Game time music plays

But you all know what time it is! It's GAME TIME! I need 5 contestants! One from each grade, and 1 leader to come up on stage for our game this morning.

"I've got something extreme for you to face this morning. When I say 'face,' I mean your actual face! Here's what I mean. Everyone gets a cookie. The first rule of the game is: 'Don't eat the cookie . . . yet.' What's the first rule?"

**KIDS:** "Don't eat the cookie . . . yet."

**HOST:** "Here's how this works. When I say, 'Go,' you'll put the cookie on your forehead and try to move the cookie from your forehead to your mouth by ONLY using your face muscles. The second rule of the game is: 'Don't use your hands.' What's the second rule?"

**KIDS:** “Don’t use your hands.”

**HOST:** “Great! You have to move your face around to try to get the cookie from your forehead into your mouth. If the cookie falls off, that’s okay. But try to catch it so it doesn’t fall on the floor. Then you can put it back on your forehead and try again. If you actually get it into your mouth, go ahead and eat it. Are you ready? On your marks, get set, go!”

**SFX:** *Upbeat music*

*Let the game go for about a minute, do a five-second countdown, and call time.*

“Good job, everybody! Who was able to get their cookie into their mouth? *(Pause for kids to respond.)* All of you can eat your cookie now.

“I’m impressed by your face muscle skills. Seriously—you’ve got talent! Let’s use those muscles some more and sing to God.”

*Worship Leaders stay on stage. Host exits.*

## **Worship**

**Alive**

**Never Gonna Stop Singing**

*Worship Leaders exit. Storyteller enters with the prop box. He sets it down on the stage where it’s out of the way.*

## **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hey, everyone. If you want an extreme story of confidence, then wait until you hear about Peter and John! *(Hold up Bible.)*”

“Let me get two of you up here who want to play these two great men.

*Choose two kid volunteers (boys) to come on stage. Get two kid-sized robes from the box and give one to each kid, assisting them as needed. You can give them fake beards as well (optional).*

*(To the two kid volunteers)* “[Kid volunteer’s name], you’ll be Peter. [Second kid volunteer’s name], you’ll be John.

“Let me tell you about Peter and John. They were two of the 12 disciples, who were Jesus’ friends. Before they met Jesus, they were ordinary fishermen. *(Hand them the fishing nets.)* They got up every morning, spent their day on a boat with stinky nets and slimy fish, and went home tired. They were just normal guys.

“Then Jesus invited them to follow Him, and it changed everything! *(Take the fishing nets back.)* Peter and John left their normal life and started to live in a totally AMPED way. They started to live fully alive. They saw Jesus do amazing miracles, like feeding a crowd of people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. They saw Jesus walk on water and calm storms. They saw Jesus die on a cross and come back to life three days later!

“After Jesus went back to heaven to be with God, Peter, John and the other disciples received the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised. With the Spirit, Peter and John lived with confidence in God. They told everyone they knew about Jesus.”

### **PETER & JOHN HEAL A MAN**

**STORYTELLER:** “One day, Peter and John were walking to the temple. *(To volunteers)* Pretend like you’re walking to the temple.

*Pause to let “Peter” and “John” walk in place.*

“Meanwhile, a man who wasn’t able to walk was being carried to the temple. Can I get another volunteer?”

*Choose another boy. Give him a kid-sized robe and a beard (optional).*

*(To the kid volunteer)* “Looking great! You can stay right there at your seat.

*(To audience, pointing to the kid volunteer)* “Remember, this man couldn’t walk, so every day someone brought him to the temple. Can I get two adult Leaders to carry him up on stage?”

*Choose two adult Leaders who bring him up on stage. Then dismiss the Leaders back to their seats.*

*(To “Peter” and “John”)* “Remember, Peter and John, you’re still walking to the temple.

*“Peter” and “John” continue to walk in place.*

*(To audience)* “At the gate near the temple, the man would lay on the ground and beg for money.

*Pause for the kid volunteer to “beg.”*

“Peter and John passed by, and the man asked them for money.

*Move “Peter” and “John” over by the other volunteer.*

“Listen to what Peter said to him. *(To “Peter”)* Peter, you can wave your arms for this part.

*Open the Bible to Acts 3:6 and read.*

*“I don’t have any silver or gold. But I’ll give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ of*

*Nazareth, get up and walk (NirV).*

“At once, the man’s feet and ankles became strong! He walked and jumped and praised God.

*Pause for the kid volunteer to jump up and down.*

“When everyone saw the man walking around, they were amazed!

*(To the kid volunteer)* “Great job. You can have a seat over here for now.”

*Show the kid volunteer where to sit over on the side of the stage.*

### **PETER & JOHN PERSECUTED**

**STORYTELLER:** “A crowd gathered, and Peter and John decided to share the good news of Jesus with them. Peter reminded the people how Jesus was the Savior they had been waiting for. He told them the whole story of Jesus—how Jesus was perfect, and the people had nailed Him to a cross. Peter explained how Jesus had died, but God brought Him back to life! Peter also said that Jesus had given him the power to heal the man who couldn’t walk.

“Not everyone was excited about what Peter and John were doing. Let me get three Small Group Leaders up here to be the religious leaders in our story.”

*Choose three adult Leaders to join you on stage. Give each of them a robe.*

“These guys were very upset by what Peter and John were teaching—that Jesus rose from the dead. They had Peter and John arrested and thrown in jail!

*Pause for the adult Leaders to act angry and then put “Peter” and “John” in jail (i.e. move them to a different part of the stage). Give the PVC jail bars to “Peter” and “John.”*

“The leaders hoped that the people wouldn’t believe in Jesus if Peter and John were in jail. But the exact opposite happened. LOTS of people had heard what Peter and John had shared, and more than 5,000 people believed in Jesus!”

### **PETER & JOHN NEVER BACK DOWN**

**STORYTELLER:** “The leaders sent for Peter and John so they could question them. The man Peter and John had healed was there, too.

*Move “Peter” and “John” so they’re standing opposite the three Leaders. Cue the kid volunteer (the “healed man”) to go stand next to them, too.*

“You’d think Peter and John would have been really scared. First they were thrown in jail, and now they were being put on trial! But they stayed confident. They trusted God. The religious leaders asked Peter

and John how they were able to heal the man who couldn't walk.

"Peter was confident because he was filled with the Holy Spirit. He told the leaders that God had raised Jesus from the dead, and he said he and John had healed the man in the name of Jesus.

"Listen to what it says next in the Bible.

*Open the Bible to Acts 4:13 and read.*

*"The leaders saw how bold Peter and John were. They also realized that Peter and John were ordinary men with no training. This surprised the leaders. They realized that these men had been with Jesus (NirV).*

"The healed man was right there, standing with the disciples, on his own two feet! So there was nothing the religious leaders could say. They weren't sure what to do, so they ordered Peter and John to step out of the room so they could talk in private.

*Pause for the kid volunteers to step away from the adult Leaders. Wave for them to keep going farther, for comedic effect.*

*If the third volunteer (the "healed man") doesn't leave with "Peter" and "John," say something like, "You too," and wait until they're all together.*

"With Peter and John gone, the leaders talked things over. *(To adult volunteers)* Can you read these nice and loud for us?"

*Hand the cue cards (from Acts 4:16 NirV) to the three adult Leaders.*

**LEADER #1:** "What can we do with these men?"

**LEADER #2:** "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed an unusual miracle."

**LEADER #3:** "We can't say it didn't happen."

**STORYTELLER:** *(To Leaders)* "Nice job. *(To audience)* The leaders decided to warn Peter and John that they could never speak to anyone in Jesus' name again.

"Once again, the leaders sent for Peter and John.

*Pause for the kid volunteers to move to stand opposite the Leaders on stage.*

"The leaders commanded them not to speak or teach in Jesus' name. This was a really big deal, because what the leaders wanted Peter and John to do went against what Jesus had told them to do.

Imagine how Peter and John must have felt! If I were in their shoes, I think I would have been afraid. I would have been scared to go against the religious leaders and risk getting into even more trouble.

“But Peter and John were confident! They knew Jesus was with them. Check out what they said to the leaders.

*Open the Bible to Acts 4:19-20 and read.*

*“Which is right from God’s point of view? Should we listen to you? Or should we listen to God? You be the judges! There’s nothing else we can do. We have to speak about the things we’ve seen and heard” (NirV).*

“Peter and John **[Basic Truth]** made the wise choice and obeyed God—even when it was difficult.”

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “The leaders warned Peter and John one more time, but in the end, they decided to let them go. The people had already heard the message about Jesus and were praising God. So Peter and John went away to tell others about Jesus.

“Let’s hear it for all of our volunteers!

*Collect the costumes from the volunteers and dismiss them to their seats.*

“Peter and John were confident in Jesus—even when they had to face something really tough. The religious leaders threw them in jail and tried to get them to stop talking about Jesus, but Peter and John weren’t afraid. They chose to do what Jesus wanted them to do. They knew that Jesus was with them.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “When Jesus is with you, you can face anything.

“Let’s pray and thank God for always being with us.”

### **Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “God, it’s so good to know that You’re always with us. Please give us confidence through Your Spirit to make the wise choice, even when we face something difficult. When we’re afraid, remind us that You’re there—no matter what. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. We love You, and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

### **Closer**

**HOST:** “Wow! Peter and John faced the religious leaders with confidence. They chose to share the good news about Jesus, even though the leaders tried to get them to stop. When things got tough, they remembered that Jesus was with them through it all.



“Jesus is always with YOU, too. It’s like our Bottom Line for today.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “When Jesus is with you, you can face anything.**

“When you remember that, you can face anything! You can stand up for someone who’s getting picked on at school. You can **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** even when a friend wants you to do something you know is wrong. You can choose to **[Basic Truth] treat someone the way you want to be treated**—even if they don’t deserve it. You can live with confidence because Jesus is with you.

“In Small Group, you’ll talk some more about how you can face anything with Jesus. Have fun!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.**