

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 10 May 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Witnesses for Jesus / Peter and John
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Acts 2:42-47; 3-4:1-31
- **CONCEPT:** The Holy Spirit helps me

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that God's Holy Spirit empowers us to tell others about Jesus.
- To encourage kids to use God's power to tell others about Jesus.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with gas safety lighter inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box
- ✓ Evangelical literature

A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 8 minutes 1. Welcome kids. 2. Sing 2 songs together (<i>One Way / God you make me smile</i>). 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get their mats and sit down.	You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i>
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B. Message 15 minutes 1. Recap Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the gas lighter you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain what the lighter should remind us of in last week's story. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap the story of God's Holy Spirit sent to the believers on Pentecost day. God had sent His Holy Spirit from heaven to be with the disciples and followers of Jesus forever, to give them power, to help them be strong, to help them tell all the people they met about God's plan to save the world. On that day of Pentecost, when God's Holy Spirit fell like flames of fire on the followers of Jesus, Peter was filled with power to stand up and tell the crowd about Jesus – and 3,000 people believed in the Lord! 3,000 people asked Jesus into their hearts! 3,000 people joined the church! Peter had already started his new job, and now all Jesus' followers were ready to start their job of telling the world about Jesus. If you have time, you could also recap last week's Bible verse, or refer to it if you displayed it in your room: ... <i>when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth.</i> (John 16:13) Finish by eliciting the concept: God sent His Holy Spirit to help me. 2. Set the scene All Jesus' followers, as well as the 3,000 new believers, continued to meet together to learn more about God. They ate together, they prayed together, they shared with each other so that no one was in need of anything. They met together to praise God and, every day, more and more people believed in Jesus. The number of Christian believers was growing. The church was getting bigger as the disciples worked hard to tell people about Jesus. The people saw the disciples do many wonderful things through the power of God – the Holy Spirit who helped them and gave them power to do God's work. 3. Tell the story It was 3 o'clock in the afternoon that day when Peter and John, two of Jesus' twelve disciples, were on their way up to the big church to pray. In the distance, Peter and John could see a man lying by the gate into the big church. The man was carried to that spot by the gate every single day to beg for money from the people who were going into the big church. The man was lame. That means that he couldn't walk. He was born that way. He had never been able to walk in his whole life. When the crippled man saw Peter and John about to come through the gate to the big church, he stopped them and asked them for some money. "Please help me. I'm a poor cripple. Have pity on me. Please give me some coins so I can buy something to eat."	You'll need ... <i>Treasure chest / Gas lighter</i>
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Peter and John looked at the crippled man straight in the eyes. Peter said to the man, "Look at us!" The poor lame man looked up at them from his spot on the ground, thinking that these two men were going to give him some money. But Peter said to him, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3:6) Peter took the crippled man's right hand and helped him up. All of a sudden, the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped up to his feet and began to walk around. Then he followed Peter and John into the big church, walking and jumping and praising God!

When all the people saw this man walking and praising God, they could hardly believe their eyes! They recognised him. That was the man who lay down at the gate, begging for money day after day. For as long as the people could remember, this crippled man had never walked a step in his life! And today, here he was, walking and jumping and praising God! The people were amazed!

The beggar man stayed close to Peter and John, holding onto them, while all the people, as they heard what had just happened outside the big church, went running to see for themselves. When Peter saw the crowd of people that had gathered, he said to them, "Why does this surprise you? Why are you staring at us as if it were our own powers that made this man walk? It was the power of Jesus that made this man strong again. Jesus, whom you handed over to be killed. Jesus, whom you wanted to be crucified. Crucify Him! Crucify Him! That's what you shouted out to Pilate! You killed Him, but God raised Him back to life. We saw this happen. It was the power of Jesus that made this man able to walk again. It was because we believed and had faith in the power of Jesus that this man was healed and made strong. Here you see it with your own eyes!" (paraphrase Acts 3:12-16)

Peter explained to the crowd that they could get rid of their sins and be forgiven by trusting in Jesus and asking Him to come into their lives. The people listened to Peter's message, but not everyone liked what they were hearing. The leaders sent the guards to arrest Peter and John for talking about Jesus rising from the dead. Peter and John spent the night in jail, but, outside, many people who heard Peter's message believed ... and the number of believers grew to about 5,000!

The next day, Peter and John were taken to be questioned by the leaders. "By what power or what name did you do this?" they asked the disciples. They wanted to know how Peter and John had healed the crippled man. Peter was filled with God's power, the Holy Spirit, and he answered them, "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed." Peter carried on, with no fear, only full of God's Holy Spirit, "Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:7-12)

The leaders were amazed. There was nothing they could say. They could see the crippled man, now healed, now walking around. They could tell that Peter and John had spent time with Jesus. What could

they do to stop this news spreading any further? They didn't want anything else to happen or these 'Jesus followers' would get out of control! "You must not speak to anyone or teach anyone in the name of Jesus," the leaders told Peter and John. Peter and John, with God's Holy Spirit helping them, said, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:19-20)

Nothing the leaders said was going to frighten Peter and John into keeping quiet. The leaders couldn't decide how to punish the two men so they let them go free. Peter and John went back to the people and told them what had happened while they were in jail. All the believers were together, praying and praising God for healing the crippled man who sat at the gate, for being with Peter and John and freeing them from jail, and thanking God for showing His power. All the believers were filled with God's Holy Spirit, God's power, God's help, and they were all able to tell others the story of Jesus with no fear. The church was growing and growing each day.

4. Explain

Jesus' disciples had made a good start to their new job. It had only been a few days, but already thousands of people had heard the news about Jesus dying to take away the sins of the world, and they had believed. Jesus' disciples obeyed Him. They spread the good news and told so many people, that still today, years and years later, we know about Jesus. We know about God's wonderful plan of salvation. We know how to get to heaven because somebody told us. They are a good example for us to follow.

There are many people in the world who *don't* know about Jesus. Maybe you are the only person who will ever be able to tell them about God's love. If you are a believer, a Christian, if you have already decided to follow Jesus, then it's your job too to go and tell others about Him. Is there someone you could tell at home, in your family? Is there someone you could talk about Jesus to at school? What about when you go on a trip? There are lots of people in foreign countries who have never heard about Jesus. Lots of people who you could tell this good news.

If you believe in Jesus and live for Him, then it's your job and my job to tell others about Him. Sometimes that can be a scary thought! Sometimes people don't want to hear about Jesus. But you know, boys and girls, just like God's Holy Spirit filled Peter and John so that they were able to tell the leaders about Jesus when they were in jail, so God's Holy Spirit – God's power, our Helper – is with us too, helping us to say the right words at the right time. You just have to trust Him.

The thing is, when you know how wonderful Jesus is, you can't help talking about Him! Peter and John told the leaders they couldn't keep quiet about the things they had seen and heard. We still have these wonderful stories written down for us in the Bible, God's Word, to get excited about and pass onto others. It's not a secret! Tell everyone!

C. Prayer Net

10 minutes

You'll need ...

1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we *pray* – We talk to

Net (with last week's prayer

<p>God and He listens.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him. 3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations. 4. <i>Explain:</i> When we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about we need to tell God about those things. Is there someone who you would like to tell about Jesus but you can't find the right words or the right time to say it? Tell us about that person and we will pray for them. 5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations. 6. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net. 	<p><i>cards)</i> <i>Small cards / postcards</i> <i>A pen</i></p>
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask kids to put their mats away. 2. <i>Explain:</i> The Holy Spirit is not a separate person from God. He is part of God, just like Jesus is part of God too. God the Father, God the Son – who died for our sin and rose to life again, and God the Holy Spirit – the power of God, sent from heaven to live in our hearts and help us. The Bible tells us that we can't see the Holy Spirit, but we know that He lives in us because He helps us to show love to the people around us. 3. Sing a closing song. (<i>God you make me smile</i>) 4. Remind kids to come back this evening. 5. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>7 minutes</p> <p><i>You'll need ...</i></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 10 May 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making memory verse paper chains.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Activity: Slide (Acts 4:12)
 - Clothes line (This could be a length of cord tied between two chairs, or fastened between two walls. Alternatively, have two helpers hold each end of the line.)
 - Laundry basket
 - Cut-out paper clothing items with a word of the memory verse written on each item
 - Pegs
- ✓ Activity: Tables
 - Memory verse slide (Acts 4:12)
 - Pre-made paper chain (see instructions and photos below)
 - Two A4 sheets of paper pre-printed with the words of the memory verse, one below the other (worksheet template included in materials, one set of two sheets per child)
 - Colouring pens/pencils
 - Safety scissors
 - Glue sticks
- ✓ Treasure chest
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 8 minutes 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing a song together. (<i>One Way / God you make me smile</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get their mats and sit down.	You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God</i>)
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F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes <i>"Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name ... by which we must be saved."</i> (Acts 4:12)	You'll need ...
1. Ask a few questions to recap today's story of Peter and John working by God's power, the Holy Spirit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What time was it when Peter and John were on their way to pray at the big church? <i>3 o'clock in the afternoon</i> - Who did they see at the church gate? What was wrong with him? <i>They saw a man who couldn't walk. People carried the lame man to the gate every day so that he could beg for money.</i> - The crippled man asked Peter and John for money. What did Peter say? <i>"Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."</i> (Acts 3:6) - When people saw the man walking and jumping and praising God they were amazed! Peter explained to them that <i>he</i> hadn't healed the man, it was the power of God that had healed him. Many people believed in Jesus because of what Peter said, but some people didn't like Peter's message. What happened to Peter and John next? <i>The leaders sent the guards to arrest Peter and John. They were thrown into jail for the night.</i> - How many believers were there altogether by this stage? <i>5,000</i> - Peter and John were not afraid when the leaders questioned them in court. They had God's power, the Holy Spirit, inside them. Peter told the leaders that they could only be saved by what Jesus had done for them. The leaders could think of no way to punish them, but what did they command Peter and John? <i>They warned them not to speak to anyone about Jesus.</i> 	
2. <i>Explain:</i> Nothing the leaders said was going to frighten Peter and John into keeping quiet. Peter and John went back to the people and told them what had happened while they were in jail. All the believers were together, praying and praising God for healing the crippled man who sat at the gate, for being with Peter and John and freeing them from jail, and thanking God for showing His power. All the believers were filled with God's Holy Spirit, God's power, God's help, and they were all able to tell others the story of Jesus with no fear. The church was growing and growing each day.	
3. <i>Explain:</i> Everywhere they went, the disciples told people they met about Jesus and God's wonderful plan to save the world. This was their message – (<i>show verse on screen</i>) "Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven ... by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) It is only by Jesus'	Memory verse slide (Acts 4:12)

<p>name that the people of the world can be saved and get to heaven. That's what the Bible tells us.</p> <p>4. Read verse aloud together. Repeat a few times as a group, and individually, until kids know it well. <i>Move to a blank screen.</i></p> <p><i>* Before the session you should have tied a length of cord between two chairs, or fastened it between two walls, to make a clothes line. Alternatively, have two helpers hold each end of the line. You should have a laundry basket, or something similar, with cut-out paper shapes of different clothing items. On each paper clothing item should be written a separate word of the memory verse. You will also need a bag of pegs.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Explain:</i> Today I have my clothes line and some clothes in my basket that need to be hung up to dry (<i>show these to kids</i>). I'm very fussy, and each piece of clothing must go in the right place on my clothes line. I would like all of you to help me.</p> <p>6. <i>Demonstrate with one item:</i> Each person can take something from the basket. Look at it carefully. What does it say? Where does this word fit into our verse? Does it come at the beginning, somewhere in the middle, or closer to the end of the verse? Take a peg and peg the word to the clothes line in the place where you think it belongs.</p> <p>7. Have kids line up in order.</p> <p>8. Invite the first child to take a word from the laundry basket. Allow the other kids to help them decide where the word should be pegged on the line.</p> <p>9. When the word is pegged onto the line, have the child move to the back of the line. The next child can take a turn.</p> <p>10. Repeat until your words are used up.</p> <p>11. <i>Check:</i> Are all the words in the right order? Let's read it together. <i>Read the verse together and check for mistakes. Allow kids to correct the word order if they need to.</i></p> <p>12. Finish with a group repetition of the verse.</p> <p>Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it later in the series.</p>	<p><i>Clothes line</i> <i>Laundry basket</i> <i>Cut-out paper clothes with a word of the memory verse written on each</i></p> <p><i>Pegs</i></p>
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<p>G. Activity 15 minutes</p> <p>1. Set out tables as a workspace and have kids find a space around them.</p> <p>2. <i>Explain:</i> Jesus' disciples had made a good start to their new job. It had only been a few days since God's gift from heaven, the Holy Spirit, had come to help them, but already thousands of people had heard the news about Jesus dying to take away the sins of the world, and they had believed. There are many people in the world who <i>don't</i> know about Jesus. If you believe in Jesus and live for Him, then it's your job and my job to tell others about Him. Sometimes that can be a scary thought! Sometimes people don't want to hear about Jesus. Remember what happened to</p>	<p>You'll need ... <i>Tables</i></p>
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<p>Peter and John? They were taken to jail when they talked about Jesus! But you know, boys and girls, just like God's Holy Spirit filled Peter and John so that they were able to tell the leaders about Jesus when they were in jail, so God's Holy Spirit – God's power, our Helper – is with us too, helping us to say the right words at the right time. You just have to trust Him.</p> <p>3. <i>Explain:</i> When Peter and John were in jail, they most likely had their wrists and ankles chained to the walls so that they couldn't escape. Even then, chained up in jail, they couldn't stop talking about Jesus, about the things they had seen and heard. Their message is the same message Jesus wants us to tell our friends and family today, (<i>show verse on screen</i>) "Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven ... by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)</p> <p>4. <i>Explain:</i> Today we're going to make chains to remind us of how brave Peter and John were in telling people about Jesus. Here is my chain. <i>Show kids your pre-made chain.</i> Each link in the chain has a word of the verse on it, and when they are linked together they make up the whole verse. You will be able to take your chain home today and hang it up in your room to remind you that the Holy Spirit will help you to be brave, like Peter and John.</p> <p>5. Give each child 2 A4 sheets of paper pre-printed with the words of the memory verse.</p> <p>6. Provide colouring pens or pencils and encourage kids to colour the words on the sheets.</p> <p>7. Provide safety scissors and help kids cut the first word strip (Salvation) from their sheet.</p> <p>8. Provide glue sticks and help kids glue the ends of the strip to make the first link in their chain.</p> <p>9. Help kids cut the second word strip (is found in) from their sheet, then link it through the first link (Salvation) before gluing the ends together.</p> <p>10. Repeat step 9 for the third and subsequent word strips until the chains are complete.</p> <p>11. Set tables to the side.</p>	<p><i>Memory verse slide (Acts 4:12)</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made chain</i></p> <p><i>2 sheets of A4 paper printed with words Colouring pens/pencils</i></p> <p><i>Safety scissors</i></p> <p><i>Glue sticks</i></p>
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H. Conclusion (with puppets)	7 minutes	You'll need ...
<p>1. <i>Remind kids:</i> It's not very likely that we will be thrown into jail for talking about Jesus, but sometimes it can still be scary to do. We can ask the Holy Spirit – our helper – to give us power and make us strong enough to tell others, just like He helped Peter and John. Jesus is not a secret! Tell everyone! Let's put the chain into the treasure chest to remind us next week of the story of Peter and John.</p> <p>2. Close in prayer.</p> <p>3. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (God you make me smile)</p> <p>4. Ask a boy and a girl to recite the memory verse once more.</p>		<p><i>Treasure chest / pre-made paper chain</i></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Small prizes</i></p>

Award prizes.

5. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave.

Name tag box

