

Power!

Monthly Theme

We learn about God together.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Peter and John heal a lame man at the temple, astonishing the people there. As they explain to the gathering crowd that this man was healed by Jesus' power, they are arrested by the Jewish leaders. After commanding them to stop preaching about Jesus, the rulers let them go. Peter and John report their experience to the believers, and the believers pray earnestly that God will give them power to speak God's Word with boldness. The Holy Spirit shakes their meeting place and all present are filled with God's power.

This is a lesson about community.

The church is a community of people who prayerfully support one another in sharing the gospel with the world. When people unitedly study God's Word and earnestly pray for power and courage to share it, they will be filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they will be enabled to work boldly and powerfully for God.

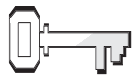
Teacher Enrichment

The Sanhedrin "was made up of members chosen from the priesthood, and from the chief rulers and teachers of the nation. . . . In the days of Jewish independence the Sanhedrin was the supreme court of the nation, possessing secular as well as ecclesiastical authority. . . . It still exercised a strong influence in civil as well as religious matters" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 133).

Room Decorations

Place a large cutout or drawing of a church where all can see. Attach cutouts of several adults and children together on the church with a picture of Jesus near the top. Around the church place pictures of the following: children and adults helping one another; adults or children studying the Bible and praying together; adults or children sharing the Bible with someone; etc.

You might want to personalize this for your Sabbath School by using pictures of the children, their families, and others from your church.



References

Acts 3; 4:1-33;
The Acts of the Apostles,
pp. 57-71



Memory Verse

"They were all filled
with the Holy Spirit
and spoke the word of
God boldly"
(Acts 4:31, NIV).

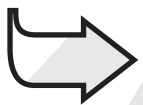


Objectives

The children will:
Know that the Holy
Spirit gives us courage
and power to share
the good news
about Jesus.

Feel a desire
to be part of God's
church and to pray
for and receive the
Holy Spirit.

Respond with
daily Bible study and
prayer for the Holy
Spirit in their lives.



The Message

At church we learn
of God's power
in our lives.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	<i>A. Courage Test</i> <i>B. Connected to the Source</i>	paper and pencil for each child, chalkboard and chalk, two small rocks or index cards for each child flashlight, batteries, small piece of paper
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container none
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, electric fan Bible, wadded paper "ball" Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Power Play</i>	Bibles
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Power Buttons</i>	clear name tag holder and paper/pencil for each child

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Give directions for the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity that is most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- paper and pencil for each child
- chalkboard and chalk
- two small rocks or two index cards for each child

A. Courage Test

As the children arrive, give them paper and pencil. Ask them to list or draw pictures of things that frighten them. For instance: Fear of dying—draw a coffin with flowers on it. Adults assist as needed.

When Sabbath School starts, ask the students to report their fears while you list them where all can see. When big fears, such as death, losing a parent, failure, having no friends, becoming poor, etc., have been listed, give everyone two index cards or two rocks.

Tell the children to decide which two things on the list they fear the most. When they hear you read their biggest fear, they give you one card or rock. Tally the responses and write the results where all can see.

Debriefing

Say: **These are all scary situations. Which two do you fear most?** Allow response time to count tally marks. **These require us to be brave, or to have courage. What is courage?** (doing something even though you are afraid, etc.) **Courage is doing the thing God wants you to do, even when it's hard.** Read aloud Acts 4:29. **What word is used for courage in this verse?** (boldness) **Here Jesus' friends are praying in church that God will give them power or boldness. If any of your church friends are scared and need courage to do what God wants, what will you do?** (Pray for them and tell them about God's power.) **How can you learn about God's power?** (Go to church, study the Bible, pray.) **And that leads me to our message for today. I'll say it, then let's say it together:**



AT CHURCH WE LEARN OF GOD'S POWER IN OUR LIVES.

You Need:

- a flashlight with working batteries
- a small piece of paper

B. Connected to the Source

Before Sabbath School, place a piece of paper on top of the top battery in a flashlight so no power gets to the bulb. Be sure the flashlight turns on when the paper is removed but stays off with the paper in place. (Large church option: Divide the class into groups of 6-8. Have a flashlight ready for each group.)

Ask a child to turn the flashlight on. Say: **As soon as the flashlight is on, stand up and shine it for everyone to see.** When it doesn't come on, ask someone else to try. After several tries, encourage a child to take the flashlight apart. When they see the paper, have them remove it and try the flashlight again.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why didn't the light come on at first?** (The paper was in the way.) **How did you feel when the flashlight didn't work?** (frustrated, wondering why, etc.) **From where does the flashlight get its power?** (the battery) **Why couldn't power get to the bulb?** (The paper was in the way.) Read aloud Acts 4:31. **What does this text tell us about the Holy Spirit's power and courage?** (To be filled with the Holy Spirit, we must pray. He gives us power and courage.) **How can you learn more about God's power?** (pray, study God's Word, etc.) **And that leads me to today's message. I'll say it, then you say it with me.**



AT CHURCH WE LEARN OF GOD'S POWER IN OUR LIVES.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge birthdays or special events.



Suggested Songs

"He's Able" (*Sing For Joy*, No. 40)

"Anywhere With Jesus" (*Sing For Joy*, No. 45)

"God of Great and God of Small" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 3)

"Give Me Oil In My Lamp" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 132) (In places where a flashlight is called a *torch*, sing: Give me power in my torch.)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*. Help the children identify the working of the Holy Spirit in the story.



Offering

Say: **When we give our offerings, we help others learn how to have God's power in their lives.**

You Need:

- offering container



Prayer

Have the children form a circle, put their right hands forward and touch one another. Ask God to help them stay as connected to the Holy Spirit as they are to each other right now, and to give them the Holy Spirit's power in their lives.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- electric fan

Experiencing the Story

Have the children act out the story as you tell it. Today's story is meant to emphasize the boldness brought about by the Holy Spirit when believers pray for power.

Characters: Peter, John, lame man, priests, guards, captain of guards, Sadducees, crowd (All other children become the crowd of listeners, then later the Sanhedrin, and finally, the praying believers.)

Tell the children to listen for *church*, *community*, or *believers*. When they hear those words, they should join hands.

Setting: Designate one corner of the room as a "jail." The lame man sits begging to one side at the front of the room.

Read or tell the story.

Peter and John are on their way to the temple. A lame man calls to them and holds out his arms. *[Peter and John approach the lame man. The man raises his arms.]* Peter and John stop. They tell him that they have no money *[Peter and John shake heads.]* but they will give what they have. They call on the name of Jesus and the man is healed. *[The man jumps up.]*

People come running. *[Beckon for everyone to gather around.]* They crowd around Peter and John.

The people ask many questions about the healing and about Jesus and the resurrection. Peter and John *[Point to Peter and John.]* speak to them boldly.

[Enter priests and captain, followed by Sadducees.] Then suddenly some priests and the captain of the temple guard push their way through the crowd.

"Arrest those men," the priests com-

mand. The captain grabs Peter and John and hurries them off to jail. *[The captain puts them in the "jail."]*

(You children who were the "crowd" now become the Sanhedrin, which is like a Jewish government. Return to your seats and try to look stiff and proud.)

Next morning the guards take Peter and John to stand before the Sanhedrin. *[Bring Peter and John back up front. The man who was healed follows.]*

The Sanhedrin is quiet. One of the leaders *[Choose a child to be the leader.]* stands. He clears his throat and speaks. "How did you do this? What power did you use? In whose name did you do it?" *[The leader echoes you.]*

Peter is just an ordinary fisherman. Will he be afraid to answer? Filled with the Holy Spirit, he begins to speak with power and courage.

"Are you questioning us about a kindness done yesterday to a man who was lame?" *[The healed man stands by Peter.]* If you are, you should know that this man stands healed because of the power of Jesus."

Peter continues boldly, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven . . . by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12, NIV).

The Sanhedrin is amazed at Peter's courage. *[Children scratch their heads and look puzzled.]* "How can ordinary fishermen speak so well and with such power?" they ask. "Huge crowds come to hear them preach. Already five thousand people have joined their **church** [join hands]. All by the power of Jesus."

"What shall we do with these men?" a leader asks. *[The Sanhedrin members "talk" to each other.]* Finally they command Peter and John, "Do not talk anymore in

the name of Jesus!”

But Peter and John stand firm and say, “Is it right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God?”

The Sanhedrin members are afraid to punish Peter and John because too many people are praising God for what has happened. So the leaders warn Peter and John. *[The Sanhedrin rulers shake their fingers at Peter and John.]* Then they set the apostles free.

You children who are the Sanhedrin now become the **believers**—*[join hands]*. You are the first **church**—*[join hands]*. The people in a **church** *[join hands]* are also called a **community of believers** *[join hands]*.

Peter and John hurry to be with the **community of believers** *[join hands]*.

“Now, Lord,” they pray, “make Your servants able to speak Your Word with great boldness.

Suddenly the meeting place shakes and rattles. What power! The Holy Spirit fills all the **believers** *[join hands]*. Everyone in the **church** *[join hands]* speaks with power about Jesus.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did Peter and John know so much about Jesus?** (They were with Him a lot.) **Why did they want to tell everyone about Jesus?** (Jesus is good news.) **How do you feel about telling others about Jesus?** (OK, great, scared) **How can your church community help you to share Jesus boldly?** (by praying for you and encouraging you)

Let’s say today’s message together:



AT CHURCH WE LEARN OF GOD’S POWER IN OUR LIVES.

Memory Verse

Say: **Open your Bibles to Acts 4. Find verse 31 and let’s read it together.** Allow time.

You Need:

- Bible
- wadded paper “ball”

This is your memory verse. Be sure the children understand the verse.

Form two groups and have them line up facing each other. Toss the paper “ball” to one child. The receiving child is to say the memory verse. Their team may help them if necessary. That child then tosses the ball to someone on the other team who is to say the memory verse. (Teammates may help.) Continue until each child has had a turn, then ask all to repeat the memory verse together.

Bible Study

Have the children turn to Acts 4. Say: **I will read a question about today’s Bible story and give you the verse that has the answer. Whoever finds the Bible text first, stand up and read it.** Adults assist as needed.

1. What did the rulers ask Peter and John? See verse 7.
2. By whose name was the lame man healed? See verse 10.
3. What does Jesus’ name bring to us? See verse 12.
4. What did the rulers order Peter and John NOT to do? See verse 18.
5. When Peter and John were set free, where did they go? See verse 23.
6. What did the believers do when they heard Peter and John’s story? See verse 24.
7. What happened after they prayed? See verse 31.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think about what Peter and John did? What do you think will happen if you pray for the Holy Spirit to fill your life? To come into our class? Let’s say our message.**



AT CHURCH WE LEARN OF GOD’S POWER IN OUR LIVES.

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- Bibles

Power Play

This activity is a game, where the answer to every question is an enthusiastic “yes!” The children are the audience and the contestants. The leader will call five “contestants” from the audience, one at a time.

Read one of the scenarios below, then ask the contestant in a loud and enthusiastic voice, “Do you have the power?” Then ask the “audience” to shout with you, “Do you have the power?” Prompt the contestant to answer “yes” with enthusiasm. Repeat with the next “contestant.”

The children will catch on quickly and will get caught up in stating and sharing the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. You have never made friends with the boy who lives down the street. He might go to Vacation Bible School with you if you knew him, but you feel shy. Will God give you the courage to make friends? (Yes!) Do you have the power? (Yes!)

2. Your older brother and sister ask you to help when they take food baskets to a family in need. You want to go, but you are afraid. Will God give you the comfort you need to help? (Yes!) Do you have the power? (Yes!)

3. Your teacher asks you to help Ivan with his reading. Your friends don't play with Ivan. You're afraid

they will make fun of you if they see you with him. Will God help you feel confident so you don't care what the others think? (Yes!) Do you have the power? (Yes!)

4. You would like for your Sabbath School class to go to a nearby apartment building and start a Bible Story Hour. You want to make the suggestion to your class but you're afraid they won't like the idea. Will God make you brave enough to share your idea? (Yes!) Do you have the power? (Yes!)

5. You know that people who live in a nursing home would enjoy having someone sing and share stories with them. But you'd rather go to the park with your friends. Will God help you to be unselfish with your time? (Yes!) Do you have the power? (Yes!)

Debriefing

Have the children find and read aloud Acts 4:31. **The group of believers were filled with the Holy Spirit after they prayed together for power. Did they have the power? (Yes!) Would you like to have the same kind of power? (Yes!) What will you do about it? (Pray for Holy Spirit power for myself and my church.)**

Let's say today's message together again:



AT CHURCH WE LEARN OF GOD'S POWER IN OUR LIVES.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Power Buttons

Have each child make an insert for the tag holder that says, "I Have the Power."

Explain that church is a community where we are all good at doing different things. And we all learn about God together at church.

Ask: **What did we learn at Sabbath School today?** (At church we learn of God's power in our lives.)

So who else needs to know about that message this week? Encourage the children to name someone they know. Then encourage them to tell a partner about the person.

Debriefing

How do you feel about sharing the

"I Have the Power" message with the person that you named? (scared, ready to go, no problem) **Will God give you the courage to share this message?** (Yes!) **Do you have the power?** (Yes!)

Wear your button during the week and explain what power you have or say your memory verse when someone asks you about your button.

Let's say today's message one more time:



AT CHURCH WE LEARN OF GOD'S POWER IN OUR LIVES.

Closing

Ask a child to pray and thank God for sharing His power with us—His church. Sing "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 129).

You Need:

- clear name tag holder for each child
- paper and pencil for each child

Power!

References

Acts 3; 4:1-33;
*The Acts of the
Apostles*, pp. 57-71

Memory Verse

“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly”
(Acts 4:31, NIV).

The Message

At church we learn of God’s power in our lives.

Sven and Karina lived in Sweden many years ago. While still children, they learned that Jesus is coming soon. Their mother and father began to share this good news with others. But it was against the law in Sweden for grown-ups to preach that Jesus is coming soon. So they were put in prison for breaking that law.

The people who believed that Jesus is coming soon prayed for courage. God’s Holy Spirit filled Sven and Karina. Even though they were children, they preached God’s message boldly. The Holy Spirit gave them courage to do so. But they were not the first. Our Bible story today is about some early church members who prayed together for courage to preach Jesus’ message.

Peter and John squinted their eyes against the bright sunlight. Deep breaths of fresh air felt good as they were led from the prison. They looked at each other and smiled. It was good to be outdoors again, even for a short time.

A special meeting of the most important men in the country would take place that day. And Peter and John had been ordered to be there. Who knew what would happen? But they were not afraid. They knew that God would be with them.

Everyone hushed as Peter and John entered the room. Robes rustled. Men shifted to get a better view. Then one of the leaders cleared his throat and began. “How did you do this? What power do you have, or

whose name did you use?”

The leader was talking about the miracle that Peter and John had done in Jesus’ name the day before. A well-known lame man had been healed. And *everybody* was talking about it. Many people who heard about the miracle also heard Peter and John’s message. They now believed in Jesus. Because of this, the Jewish leaders were *not* happy!

Peter quietly looked around at the rulers. He was a different man from the Peter who had denied knowing Jesus just a few days ago. Now he was filled with the Holy Spirit. He began to speak. “We are being called to account today for an act of kindness to a man who could not walk. You ask us how this happened. Know this: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that he was healed. Yes, Jesus, the One whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead.”

Peter continued boldly on. “Salvation is found in no one else. For there is no other name by which we must be saved.” (See Acts 4:8-12.)

The rulers looked amazed. Why, the man spoke without fear! Clearly and boldly! Those leaders soon decided that Peter and John had been changed because they had been with Jesus.

What should they do? They couldn’t say that the miracle hadn’t happened. The man who had been lame was standing right there! And he certainly wasn’t lame anymore! There was a bounce in his step and a smile on his face. He knew he had been healed!

The rulers finally decided to order Peter and John not to talk about it. But Peter and John stood firm and said, “Is it right to obey you rather than God?”

Once again Peter and John were warned, even more strongly. Then they were set free. The rulers were afraid to punish them. Too many people in the city were praising God for what had happened.



Peter and John returned to the place where the believers were gathered. They all joined together in prayer, asking for power to speak out boldly, and for more miracles through the name of Jesus. And God heard and answered their prayers. At once, the meeting place shook like an earthquake. But it wasn't an earthquake. It was the Holy Spirit filling everyone there. And after that they all began to preach God's message with great courage.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- With your family, go someplace outdoors and look for things that show God's power, such as a mighty waterfall. Or, watch a thunder and lightning storm from inside. Read your Bible lesson story together. Pray for God's power in your life.
- Find and read Acts 4:31 in your Bible.

Sunday

- During family worship read together Acts 3:1-9. To find out how it feels to be lame, bandage a stick to your leg, above and below the knee. Walk around the room as you sing together "He's Able" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 40).
- Teach your memory verse to your family.

Monday

- Together with your family, read more of your lesson story in Acts 4:1-22. Choose a way you and your family can witness to someone this week. Make plans to do so. Pray about your plans.
- Make red, orange, and/or yellow flame-shaped cutouts. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Mix them up and try to put them in the right order.

Tuesday

- Read Acts 4:23-33 during worship today. Where did Peter and John go after they were released from prison? (verse 23). Remember, your church is a community of believers. How many Adventist churches are in your state or province? Pray for your pastor.
- Discuss with your family: What do you like best about your church? What are your favorite activities? How does church help you to serve Jesus better? Read in Acts 1:8 about the power that God gives His church to serve Him.
- Arrange your memory verse cutouts in the right

order and say it to an adult.

Wednesday

- When did all the people in Peter and John's church become filled with the Holy Spirit? What did they do then? Read Acts 4:31. With your family, pray that the Holy Spirit will fill you with courage and power as you witness to someone this week. Ask your family when they have felt the Holy Spirit leading them.
- Say your memory verse to someone in your family.

Thursday

- Make a fan out of thick paper. Try to move a pencil or other small object by making a breeze with your fan. What happens? Next, use an electric fan. What happens? The electric fan is like the power of the Holy Spirit. It gets work done. How is electricity like God's power? Which is stronger? Read Zechariah 4:6.
- What would happen if your whole family prayed for Holy Spirit power? What might happen if you and your friends prayed daily for Holy Spirit power for your church? To answer that question, say your memory verse.
- Sing "Give Me Oil My Lamp" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 132) before prayer.

Friday

- For family worship, have a "church service" about the Holy Spirit. Include a song service, Bible reading, short sermon, offering, etc. Sing songs about the Holy Spirit. Read together Acts 1:8; 4:31; and 2 Timothy 1:7.
- During the "sermon" time ask each family member to tell about a way the Holy Spirit's power helped them witness to someone this week. Invite each family member to sign a card that says: "With God's help I choose to study my Bible and pray for the Holy Spirit every day."