



## The Big Build

### Peter and John Before the Council

**BIG IDEA:** The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to boldly tell others about Jesus.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Acts 3:1–4:22

**KEY VERSE:** “And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other.”  
Acts 1:8 c

### ★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

#### **BUILDING COMMUNITY**

**Directions:** During “The Big Build” series, kids will get to practice their building skills while hearing stories about how God built the early Church. Kids will learn that a big part of being the “Church” is sharing life together. Spend this time early in the lesson simply getting to know the kids and helping the kids know one another.

**Question:** Tell us about a time when you were really scared to do something. What happened? Were you able to do it?

**Question:** Does it make you scared or nervous to tell other kids about Jesus? Why or why not?

#### **ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN**

If you have additional time before Large Group begins, play “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down.” Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

### ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON





## ★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### STORY QUESTIONS

#### For Younger Kids:

1. What was your favorite part of this story?
2. Why do you think John and Peter were so brave?

#### For Older Kids:

1. If you were John and Peter, do you think you would have been able to speak so boldly about Jesus? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think they were able to be so brave?

### IT'S IN THE BAG! (Application Activity)

**Set Up:** Print out the "Question Cards" and "Action Cards". Cut the cards apart. Place the "Question Cards" in one bag and the "Action Cards" in another.

**Say:** In our story for today, Peter spoke boldly about Jesus. He even told the priests and temple guards that he wouldn't stop telling others what he had seen and heard about Jesus! We are going to play a game where we can practice talking about what WE have seen and heard about Jesus.

**Directions:** Place the two bags in the middle of your group. Have the kids take turns choosing a question from one bag and a funny way of reading the question from the other bag. The kids will have to read the question while performing the silly action. For younger kids who are still learning to read, read the question for them while they perform the action. Once the question has been read, allow the kid who chose it to answer. If there are still kids who haven't had a turn when all the question and action cards have been drawn, place the cards back in the bag and continue.

**Say:** Those questions help us think about what we have seen and heard about Jesus. Sometimes telling others about Jesus is as simple as telling them those things we just talked about. When we ask the Holy Spirit for boldness and remember what God has done in our lives, we will be able to speak boldly about Jesus to our friends.

### PASS THE WORD (Bible Memorization Activity)

**Directions:** Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. The verse is:

**"And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other." Acts 1:8 c**

When enough time has passed, turn the card over. Pass a beach ball to one of the kids in your group. Instruct them to say the first word of the verse and then pass the ball to another kid who will then say the second word. Tell the kids to continue passing the ball around the group until the entire verse has been recited by memory. Give them one practice round and then begin timing them with a stop watch to see if





they can say it faster and faster. If saying one word at a time proves too difficult for some of the kids, have each kid recite the entire verse when they receive the ball. When your group is finished with the game, ask them the following questions:

**Question Time:** What does it mean to be a witness? How can you be a witness for Jesus to others?

## **PRAYER BOOKMARK** (Group Prayer Activity)

**Directions:** Give each kid in your group a strip of duct tape 10–12 inches long. Tell them to fold it over so that the non-sticky side is on the outside. Assist the younger kids as needed. When finished, it should look something like a bookmark. On one side of the bookmark, tell your kids to write their memory verse:

**And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other.” Acts 1:8c**

If you have younger kids who struggle with writing, print out the “Be a Witness” sign and help them simply write the words on their bookmark.

Next, ask the kids if they would like to share a name of a specific person that they need courage to tell about Jesus or they can share general prayer requests with the group. For the younger kids, have them listen carefully and remember what is shared. For the older kids, have the group write the name and prayer request of their friends on the opposite side of the bookmark. When finished, tell the group to use the bookmark in their Bible or another book throughout the week. Remind them to pray for their small group every time they see the bookmark.

In the end, lead the kids in a closing prayer. Allow them to pray for the requests that were just shared.

