

# PRAYER WARRIORS

## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

God can make us bold.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn to pray for boldness in speaking out for Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 4:23-31, The Room is Shaken

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)*

**SUMMARY:**

Even after Peter and John were put into jail and their lives were threatened, due to sharing about Jesus, they prayed boldly that God would use them to spread his good news to the world.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Make us bold and brave so that we can make a stand for you.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

# PRAYER WARRIORS

## MEMORY VERSE

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)*

*“Give a lot of time and effort to prayer. Always be watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Play a rap/hip-hop beat on the drums, and rap the memory verse for the kids, then have them repeat it back to you. Do this 3-4 times. See if they can do it the last time without reading it off the screen.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

# PRAYER WARRIORS

## SKIT

### THE PRAYER DOCTOR: BE BOLD

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Two chairs

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M/1F

#### CHARACTERS:

April- A TV host

Doc- The Prayer Doctor

*April and Doc sit in chairs, angled toward one another, like a talk show set.*

APRIL: Hello, and welcome to the prayer Doctor. I'm your host April, and joining me as always is the man with the hotline to God, the Prayer Doctor.

DOC: *(takes a chomp off a piece of beef jerky)* Mmmmm, that's bold!

APRIL: Doctor, we're on the air!

DOC: Sorry, April. I saw this commercial last night for a new flavor of my favorite snack. And you know what? It's pretty bold!

APRIL: You like the bold flavor?

DOC: I love it! Really makes a statement you know!

APRIL: What kind of statement?

DOC: It says, I AM MEAT! That was all capital letters, by the way.

APRIL: And bold-type print?

**PRAYER WARRIORS: PRAY BOLDLY**

# SKIT

DOC: Probably.

APRIL: Doctor, today's letter is from a girl named Savannah.

DOC: My favorite city!

APRIL: Savannah writes, "Dear Prayer Doctor, some of the kids at school say they will make fun of me if I do a speech in class about the Bible. They say the Bible is just made up stories and Jesus was just a regular man. What should I do?"

DOC: Boy, that's never an easy situation. I'll tell you what you need, Savannah. You need to pray for this!

*Doc holds up the jerky.*

APRIL: For beef jerky?

DOC: No! She needs to pray for boldness. You have to be bold when you speak up for God. Don't be afraid to speak out, because the people who want you to stay silent are often the ones who need Jesus the most.

APRIL: No way!

DOC: Way! In my life I've often found that the most vocal critics of my faith are the ones who are closest to believing it. They just need to see that your faith is real. So Savannah, pray that God will make you bold and courageous. The Lord will be with you and give you the strength to speak out.

APRIL: Thank you, Doc, and thank you for joining us today. Next time on the Prayer Doctor, we'll learn if praying for your favorite team can help them win the playoffs.

DOC: It doesn't.

APRIL: No spoilers, Doc!

DOC: Sorry!

# PRAYER WARRIORS

## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Plain crackers

Regular flavor A1 sauce

Bold flavor A1 sauce

*Begin this lesson with a taste test. Invite 2-3 kids to taste a cracker with regular A-1 and the BOLD flavor of A-1. Can they taste a difference?*

Bold is a popular word in the food industry. When we see the word “bold”, we expect flavors to be, well, bigger, stronger. People who like bold flavored sauces and jerky and chips really like their flavors to be BIG!

When we speak of boldness in people, we think of courage. We think about people who are not afraid to speak their minds. Bold people are fearless, and they don’t run and hide when someone dares to challenge them.

It takes boldness to speak up for Jesus, especially when we are around people who do not believe. Some of those people can be pretty bold in their unbelief. We need to pray for boldness so that we will not stay silent because those bold opponents to our faith are often the ones closest to believing.

When you are bold for Christ, you may lose friends. You may get some criticism from kids and even adults. Don’t let them discourage you. Ask God to make you bold so that they may hear the truth about Jesus. You never know who will be ready to hear it!

# PRAYER WARRIORS

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### LAUNDRY BASKET BALL

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Volleyballs, a round laundry basket

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose one player for this game and give him the laundry basket. The player has 60 seconds to catch 10 volleyballs tossed by an adult leader in the basket. After catching a ball, the player will dump the ball out and continue catching. If he can catch 10 volleyballs before time expires, he wins.

#### VARIATION:

Cut the number of balls to 6 for younger kids.

#### WHAT'S THE POINT?

It takes boldness to face a challenge alone. Ask God to make you bold so you can stand up for your faith.

# PRAYER WARRIORS

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

God can make us bold.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn to pray for boldness in speaking out for Jesus.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Acts 4:23-31, The Room is Shaken

### **INTRO**

It takes a lot of courage to stand up for what's right. Martin Luther King, Jr. certainly knew that. When King started his civil rights crusade, he knew that he and his followers would need boldness to achieve their goals. King never wavered in his boldness. He was always gentle, always loving, but always, always bold. He never backed down.

Boldness is a necessity for anyone looking to create change. People who fight for the rights of the poor and homeless have to be bold, challenging others to see the need and lend a helping hand. People who want to right a wrong in society, like Dr. King, have to be bold.

People who stand up for Jesus need to be bold as well. It takes boldness to stand for Jesus in countries where being a Christian or even owning a Bible is illegal, but it takes boldness to stand up for Jesus here in America, too. Our country continues to move away from God. People want to make up their own rules instead of following God's laws. Only a bold person can stand up to that kind of attitude and say, "This isn't right. There's a better way."

Following God requires us to be bold, but bold doesn't come easy. The easy thing to do when we face opposition is to stay silent. We stay in our seats and keep our mouths shut because doing otherwise could cost us friends. It could also cost us a good grade, or cost us other opportunities.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

There's one way to have boldness like that: we need to pray for it. We need to pray for the courage to stand up for Jesus. We need to pray for the wisdom to know when to take a stand. We need to pray for the strength to stand when no one will stand with us.

Today's story is about Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples. Peter had once denied even knowing Jesus, afraid that if he was found out, he would be put to death. The Peter in today's story is a very different person from the one we see in the Easter story.

## **READ ACTS 4:23-31**

### **MAIN POINT**

Peter and John had just come from the Sanhedrin, the Jewish High Council. These were the same men who put Jesus to death, the same men Peter lied to when Jesus was on trial.

Peter was no longer afraid of what the Council might do to him. Peter knew without a doubt that Jesus was the Christ who had died for the sins of the whole world. Peter was willing to face trials, persecution, and even death for the sake of Jesus.

When Peter and John returned to the other believers, they prayed that God would make them all bold. God responded by shaking the room and filling each person with the Holy Spirit. God heard their prayer, and he made them bold.

### **DRIVE IT HOME**

If you haven't come across someone who doesn't believe in Jesus, you will. If you haven't met a teacher, a fellow student, or another person who thinks the Bible is just a collection of made up stories, you will. Some day, each of you will encounter people who do not believe the way we do. Some will simply tell you they don't believe. Others may openly attack you. What will you do when your faith is challenged?

It's going to take a bold heart to stand up for Jesus. That's why you need to pray for boldness. God wants you to ask for strength, for courage, for fearlessness. God will fill you with his Spirit and give you the courage to speak out, even when no one else will stand with you.

Before Jesus returned to Heaven, he gave a command to all who believe in him. He told us to go and preach the gospel to everyone. Will you be that bold? Will you take the good news of Jesus to your school, to the playground, to your basketball practice?

Sometimes it's hard to stand for Jesus, especially when someone else wants to tear our faith down. But sometimes, the person who is most hostile toward your faith is the one ready to accept Jesus. They just need a reason. They need to see that your faith is real!

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Be strong. Pray that Jesus will send his Spirit to make you bold. He will not let you down, and he will use you to spread the good news

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER**

*Dear God,*

*Make us bold and brave so that we can make a stand for you.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

# PRAYER WARRIORS

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER

Have you ever had to stand up for something?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Colossians 4:2

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Play musical chairs with the kids. Who will be the bold one to claim the last chair?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Read Acts 4:23-31**

Who allowed Peter and John to go back to their fellow believers?

What did the believers say when they heard Peter's and John's story?

For what did the believers pray?

What happened after they finished praying?

How can we find the boldness to stand up for Jesus?

### SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*Do not let us be frightened into staying silent. Give us boldness and courage so that we can pass on the good news of Jesus.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

**PRAYER WARRIORS: PRAY BOLDLY**

# PRAYER WARRIORS

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER

Have you ever had to stand up for something?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Colossians 4:2

Give each kid one word of the memory verse. They have to remember their word and then they all have to stand up and line up in order, so that when they say their word from left to right they will have said the memory verse.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Play musical chairs with the kids. Who will be the bold one to claim the last chair?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Read Acts 4:23-31**

Why did the Sanhedrin question Peter and John?

For what did the believers pray?

What happened after they finished praying?

When are some times you can think of when you need to be bold for Jesus?

How can we find the boldness to stand up for Jesus?

### SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*Do not let us be frightened into staying silent. Give us boldness and courage so that we can pass on the good news of Jesus.*

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## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. Peter and \_\_\_\_\_ were released by the Sanhedrin.  
A. Jesus  
B. James  
C. John\*
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ raised their voices together.  
A. priests  
B. believers\*  
C. Romans
3. Help us to be \_\_\_\_\_ when we speak your word.  
A. bold\*  
B. afraid  
C. shy
4. After the disciples prayed, the room \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. emptied out  
B. shook\*  
C. filled up
5. The disciples received the gift of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. hot potato  
B. Holy Spirit\*  
C. invisibility cloak

# MAKE IT STICK

## 5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: PRAY BOLDLY



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Even after Peter and John were put into jail and their lives were threatened, due to sharing about Jesus, they prayed boldly that God would use them to spread his good news to the world. Acts 4:23-31, The Room is Shaken



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

What kind of bold things do you see at home or at the store? Look for the word bold, and answer for yourselves what "bold" means when you see it. Then ask the kids what it means to be bold for Jesus.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What story did Peter and John tell their fellow disciples?
- What happened after the believers prayed for boldness?
- Why do we need to pray that God will make us bold?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." - Colossians 4:2 (NIV)*



#### PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Pray for your kids to have a strong faith, and pray for them to be bold believers. The world needs more bold believers to speak the truth in love.

# PRAYER

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## CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids design a package or ad for something that is “Bold.”