

Teaching Point: Standing up for our faith is sometimes difficult.

Games:

The sun shines on... Have a circle of chairs one for each child but with one child in the centre without a chair. This volunteer has to say "The sun shines on all the people who..." And pick a category like "who like jelly", "who have a sister", "who walk to school" etc... Anyone who fits the description must jump up and change places with someone across the circle, while the one in the middle tries to get an empty chair to sit on. The person left without a chair is next to be in the middle and so on.

Splat. Standing in a circle with one in the middle (maybe a leader first!). The person in the middle points, hands together, while saying "Splat" to one child who must crouch down as the two either side see who can be the first to "Splat" each other. The child who loses must sit down. This is continued until only two are left in the circle. There is then a shoot (Splat) out.

Skittles. Get all the children to line up at one end of the room, facing the wall, in a "V" shape. Roll a soft ball and if anyone is touched below the knee, they must turn to face the front. Take it in turns to be the bowler.

Introduction: Ask the group if they have ever been accused of something they did not do. Have they ever been punished for something they did not do? How did they feel?

Story: Acts 4. This is paraphrased in the resources section.

Memory verse: *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"* Acts 2 v 21. Write each word on a piece of paper which can be rolled up and put inside a balloon. Blow up and tie each balloon and invite the children to pop them one by one and find the verse inside. Get them into the right order and learn the verse together.

Application: Peter and John were thrown into prison for speaking to the people about Jesus. But this did not stop them. They had such faith in the power of the Holy Spirit and knew they were doing what Jesus wanted. They would never give up! They prayed to God and put their trust in Him. They set a good example for us. You could share your experiences about standing up for your faith.

Song: "Go the Distance" Powerhouse CD

Question Box: Hopefully you are getting some interest in this and some challenging questions!

Prayer: Get into a circle and give each child a small piece of paper and a pencil. They can write down anything that they are finding difficult or want help with. Put all the prayers in a container and say a general prayer over them, asking God to work in every situation. Say the "Grace".

Resources: Story, funsheet.

Peter and John Arrested

Week 3

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, a group of men came up to them. They were upset because the two apostles were teaching the people. Peter and John were preaching that people could be raised from the dead through the power of Jesus. The Jewish leaders grabbed Peter and John and put them in jail. It was already night, so they kept them in jail until the next day.

But many who heard Peter and John preach believed the things they said. There were now about 5,000 men in the group of believers.

The next day the Jewish leaders asked them, "By what power or authority did you do this?" Then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. He said to them, "Rulers of the people and you older leaders, are you questioning us about a good thing that was done to a crippled man? Are you asking us who made him well? We want all of you and all the Jewish people to know that this man was made well by the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth! You nailed him to a cross, but God raised him from death.

"Jesus is the only One who can save people. His name is the only power in the world that has been given to save people. And we must be saved through him!"

The Jewish leaders saw that Peter and John were not afraid to speak. They understood that these men had no special training or education. So they were amazed. Then they realised that Peter and John had been with Jesus. They saw the crippled man standing there beside the two apostles and they saw that the man was healed.

There was nothing they could say against them. "What shall we do with these men?" they asked. They decided to tell Peter and John that they must not speak or teach the people about Jesus!

Peter and John asked, "What do you think is right? What would God want? Should we obey you or God? We cannot keep quiet, we must speak about what we have seen and heard".

The Jewish leaders could not find a way to punish them because all the people were praising God for what had been done. So the Jewish leaders warned the apostles again and let them go free.