

# I Can Be Bold for Jesus Christ

An Easter Bible Study for Kids by

Every Generation  
MINISTRIES



Every Generation Ministries helps churches in 15 countries minister to children. This lesson is an example of the life-changing resources our national ministries offer in Argentina, Belarus, Chile, DR Congo, Egypt, Hungary, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Romania, Uganda and Ukraine.

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## Lesson Aim

I can be bold when talking about Jesus.

## Basic Idea

Peter was so afraid of being found out that he denied the Lord and lied to people questioning him. He was focused on the moment, rather than on Jesus. He was more afraid of what others would think and do than what his closest friend and teacher thought.

## Scripture

Matthew 26:69-75

## Devotional

Every Generation Ministries believes that transformation in the life of your child begins with transformation in your life. Before you teach this lesson to your children, take a moment to reflect on this lesson aim in your own life. Read this devotional and ask yourself if you really believe that, "I can be bold when talking about Jesus."

Peter loved Jesus very much. But when Jesus was arrested, Peter was afraid. He told people that he didn't know Jesus. We all can fail when we rely on ourselves for strength or when our eyes are on our circumstances and not on Jesus. We can only rely on God's strength. Afterward guilt and grief came over him and he broke down and wept bitterly. In his repentance and reliance on God, God gave him the strength to be bold. Peter never denied him again, but confessed him often even in the face of danger.

## Bible Background

The story of Peter's threefold denial of Christ is found in all four Gospel accounts: Matthew 26:69–74, Mark 14:66–72, Luke 22:55–62 and John 18:15–18, 25–27. But why would the chief of the disciples deny even knowing Him?

There were two main reasons why Peter denied Jesus: weakness and fear. Peter's denial was based partially on weakness, the weakness born of human frailty. After the Last Supper, Jesus took His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to await His arrest. He told them to stay awake and pray while He went off to pray alone. When He returned to them, He found them sleeping. He warned Peter to stay awake and pray because, although his spirit might be willing, his flesh was weak. But he fell asleep again, and, by the time the soldiers had come to arrest Jesus, it was too late to pray for the strength to endure the ordeal to come. No doubt his failure to appropriate the only means to shore up his own weakness—prayer—occurred to him as he was weeping bitterly after his denials.

But Peter learned his lesson about being watchful, and he exhorts us in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be on the alert, because your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." Peter's weakness had caused him to be "devoured" momentarily as he denied his Lord because he hadn't been prepared through prayer and he underestimated his own weakness.

A second reason for Peter's failure was fear. To his credit, although all the others had fled (Mark 14:50), Peter still followed Jesus after His arrest, but he kept his distance so as not to be identified with Him (Mark 14:54). There's no question that fear gripped him. From the courtyard, he watched Jesus being falsely accused, beaten and insulted (Mark 14:57–66). Peter was afraid Jesus would die, and he was fearful for his own life as well. The world hated Jesus, and Peter found that he was not prepared to face the ridicule and persecution that Jesus was suffering.

Earlier, Jesus had warned His disciples as well as us today, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first” (John 16:18; cf. Matthew 24:9). Peter quickly found he wasn’t nearly as bold and courageous as he had proclaimed, and in fear he denied the One who had loved him.

We might well wonder why Jesus allowed Peter to fail so miserably and deny his Lord three times that night. Jesus revealed to Peter that Satan had asked for permission to sift Peter like wheat (Luke 22:31). Jesus could have easily protected Peter and not allowed Satan to sift him, but Jesus had a higher goal. He was equipping Peter to strengthen his brothers (Luke 22:32). Not only did Peter strengthen the other disciples, but he became the pillar of the early church in Jerusalem, exhorting and training others to follow the Lord Jesus (Acts 2). And he continues to this day to strengthen us through his epistles, 1 and 2 Peter. As with all our failures, God used Peter’s many failures, including his three denials of Christ, to turn him from Simon, a common man with a common name, into Peter, the Rock. (Gotquestions.org)

## Lesson Aim Note

The Lesson Aim is mentioned many times throughout the course of this lesson. To make it noticeable, it is **bold**. It is critical to repeat and explain it numerous times. The goal is for the children to not only learn the Lesson Aim but to understand it well enough to be able to apply it to their daily lives.

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## Supplies Needed

This is a comprehensive list of all supplies you will need to complete this lesson.

- Props: Real fire wood or brown, orange and yellow cardboard, paper or cellophane to build a "warming fire."
- Props: A gateway made from paper attached to a wall or doorway with tape
- Costumes: Bible times costumes for 2-3 males and 2 females (robes, scarves, sandals, beards, etc.)
- Buzzer App for sound effects person to push during Truth section.
- Paper
- Pens or pencils for writing

## Relationship

Every Generation Ministries believes that a relationship that reflects the love of God is a crucial element of transformational ministry. The life of Christ, particularly His love, flows through our relationship with our children (Deuteronomy 6:5-6). Relational activities can be fun, sincere, humorous... The purpose is to learn something about each other and to grow in relationship.

### **Two truths and a lie:**

To play, everyone sits or stands in a circle. One by one, each person in the circle says three statements about him/herself. Two of these statements must be facts, or "truths," and one must be a lie. The other members then try to guess which statement is the lie.

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Hint: What Makes for a Good Lie? A Good Truth? A good lie is one that's ultimately believable: it'll sound like something you might've done or might want to do (but haven't actually done). A lie that's too far fetched will clearly sound fake, so try to think of lies that are similar to truths to make them as plausible-sounding as possible. Come up with each one in your head before you start telling them.

## Experience

Every Generation Ministries believes that experience is a key element of learning. Transformation is not just a cognitive exercise. We learn by integrating God's Word into the everyday "experiences" of life (Deuteronomy 6:7).

### **Parent:**

Read the following statements and see if anyone in your family wants to agree with it and speak up about why they think it's true. Next, read the contradicting statement. Again see if anyone in your family (give children a chance to respond first) wants to agree with it and speak up about why they think it's true.

- It's ok to tell a lie once in a while.
  - God wants me to tell the truth.
  
  - If someone hurts me it's ok to hurt them back.
  - God wants me to forgive others even when they hurt me.
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Finally, read the supporting scripture and discuss if this changes what you believe in any way.

- The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy. Proverbs 12: 22 NIV
- Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices. Colossians 3:9 NIV
- Do not do wrong to a person to pay him back for doing wrong to you. Or do not insult someone to pay him back for insulting you. But ask God to bless that person. Do this, because you yourselves were called to receive a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9 ICB
- Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Romans 12:17-18 NLT

### **Connecting Questions:**

1. When you played the first round of 2 truths and a lie, how did you feel trying to convince your family of the truth or the lie?
2. When you defended the scriptural truths how did you feel?
3. Is it easy or hard to defend God's truth to your friends and family?
4. What prevents us from being bold in defending God's truth in our daily lives?

### **Connecting Statement:**

Today, we will hear about Jesus' disciple, Peter, after Jesus is arrested. Let's see if Peter was bold about standing up for the truth.

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## Truth

Every Generation Ministries believes that the Word of God needs to be “impressed” on our children. It is the Bible Truth that we are teaching and is the core of the lesson (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

**Parent Note:** It is important that children understand that the story you are about to teach is from God's Word, the Bible. We want them to understand that the stories are all true and they help us to understand who God is and how He wants us to live. We recommend having a Bible in hand.

### Supplies Needed:

- Props/Scenery - Real fire wood or brown, orange and yellow cardboard, paper or cellophane to build a model of a "warming fire."
  - Props/Scenery - Gateway made from paper attached to a wall or doorway with tape
  - Costumes - Bible times costumes for each character: 2-3 males and 2 females (robes, scarves, beards, sandals, etc.)
  - Buzzer app for sound effects person to push when Peter pretends to curse
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Choose four actors to play the speaker roles as you tell the Bible truth: Peter, Servant Girl in Courtyard, Servant Girl Standing in Gateway, Man at the Gateway. Give them simple costumes to wear. Actors must be old enough to read from a script and remember when to speak (use adults or double up if needed).

Choose someone to make the sound of a rooster crowing at the appropriate time and someone else to push the buzzer at the appropriate time.

Create the courtyard scene by placing some firewood on the floor and pretending to light a warming fire. Invite a few children to sit around the fire with the servant girl and another couple of kids to stand by the gateway with the boy in costume. Have Peter, the girl in courtyard and the servant girl remain in the next room until the narrator begins.

As the narrator begins telling the story, Peter enters the room and sits down to warm himself by the fire where the others are already sitting.

**Narrator (Parent):** In our last lesson we heard the wonderful story of Jesus coming into Jerusalem riding on a baby donkey. This day is remembered as Palm Sunday. The people praised the Lord Jesus and waved palm branches as He passed. They put branches and robes on the ground to welcome Jesus and to celebrate His coming to save them. They thought He would save them from the Romans and didn't realize that God had a different and better plan to save and free people from slavery to sin. A few days after Palm Sunday, the praise of the crowd turned into yelling of the mob, crying out "Crucify Him."

During the evening when Jesus came into Jerusalem, He met with His disciples for a Passover meal. This evening is called The Last Supper, because it was the last meal that Jesus had with them before He died on the cross.

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During the meal, Jesus told His disciple Peter that He would deny Him three times. After the meal, Jesus and the Disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus knew what was going to happen. Here in the garden, Jesus was arrested. One of the disciples, Judas, betrayed Jesus and told the Jewish leaders where they could find Him. They sent soldiers to arrest Jesus. They took Him away and treated Him harshly.

We are going to dramatize the next part of the story after the arrest of Jesus. Peter had told Jesus that he would follow Him no matter what. But after Jesus was arrested, all the disciples, including Peter, became worried and frightened that their life was in danger, too. Let's see what Peter said and did right after Jesus was arrested. **Let's find out if he was brave and bold when talking to people about Jesus.**

### **Script for "Peter Disowns Jesus"**

**Narrator:** After Jesus was arrested, Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. (Servant Girl enters and walks up to Peter)

**Servant Girl** (pointing at Peter): You also were with Jesus of Galilee!

**Narrator:** But he denied it before them all.

**Peter:** I don't know what you're talking about! (Getting up and walking over to the gateway)

**Narrator:** Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and spoke to the people there. (Girl walks up to Peter.)

**Girl at gateway:** This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth! I'm sure of it!

**Narrator:** He denied it again, with an oath.

**Peter (getting angrier):** I don't know the man! (Snarl, grrrrrrrr, mumbling angrily)

**Narrator:** After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter.

**Man at gateway:** Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.

**Narrator:** Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them.

**Peter (really angry):** Grrrrrrrr! (Pretend to curse and swear, but don't actually say real swear words.) I don't know the man!

**Narrator:** Immediately a rooster crowed. (Sound of rooster in distance.) Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

**Peter (leaving through the gateway, weeping bitterly)**

**Narrator:** This story was a sad moment in Peter's life. He had watched Jesus get arrested and was worried what would happen next. Jesus had told him that he would deny his Lord three times and then the rooster would crow. But Peter didn't believe Jesus. He didn't think he ever could be so weak and afraid. He thought he would be bold when talking about Jesus. Unfortunately, he wasn't bold, but instead became so afraid that he lied about even knowing Jesus.

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Fortunately, that sad moment in Peter's life was not the end of the story. Later, after Jesus' resurrection, Peter and Jesus met again by the seashore and had a good talk. We will hear about what happened at that meeting in an upcoming lesson. I don't want to give it away now but you can be assured that God wasn't finished with Peter yet. Jesus had big plans to give Peter the power of God to be an important leader of the church and a brave man of God.

Not long after this sad time of denial, Peter discovered that **he could be bold when talking about Jesus**. God gives us the same power, the power of the Holy Spirit, so **we can be bold when talking about Jesus, too**.

## Discussion

Every Generation Ministries makes a big deal out of “talk about them,” believing that it is crucial to talk about the Bible Truth above and connect it to the real lives of children. Talk about how to connect God’s Word to your child’s real life (Deuteronomy 6:7).

1. How do you think Peter felt when people were accusing him of being a friend of Jesus?
  2. Why do you think Peter was afraid and angry?
  3. How does it make you feel when you are with someone who doesn't believe in the truth that Jesus is the Son of God?
  4. Even though Peter wasn't bold in this part of the story, what do we know about Peter's future as a man of God who boldly told other people about Jesus?
  5. Is it easy or hard for you to defend your faith? Why?
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6. Who promises to help you boldly tell people that you believe in Jesus? (Holy Spirit)

7. How can you develop more courage to be bold about knowing Jesus? (Study the Bible, spend time with godly people, worship Jesus, pray, practice sharing with others about God)

## Response

Every Generation Ministries believes that responding to God from a transformed heart is the ultimate goal of our time here on earth. Children are encouraged to respond to God's Word in thought and action, immediately and on into the future (Deuteronomy 6:8-9).

### **Respond Now:**

Lead a role-playing experience by dividing children into even groups (if you have an odd number of kids join one of their groups). Tell 1 group to pretend to be non-believers while the other group tries to tell them why they love Jesus and boldly defend their faith.

### **Examples:**

"Do you know who Jesus Christ is? Can I share with you about Him?"

"Jesus has changed my life. Can I tell you why I love Him?"

"Can I pray for you this week? How can I pray for you?"

"Can I show you my favorite Bible verse?"

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Ask your children to choose one person they want to be bolder with in sharing their faith. Have them write the name down on a piece of paper and pray with each other for boldness in the coming week. Ask them to come to dinner next week prepared to share about their conversation with the person they wrote down.

**Keep Responding:**

After speaking to the person you chose about Jesus, write that person's name on a piece of paper and hang it up where you can see it and pray for them every day.

