**Artrageous**

**Peter Denies Knowing Jesus**

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**BIG IDEA: Jesus saves us from sin, so we can boldly tell others that “I’m with Him!”**

**BIBLE BASIS: Luke 22:31-34, 54-56**

**KEY VERSE: “I’m not ashamed of the good news. It is God’s power to save everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16 (NIrV)**

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**LEADER DEVOTIONAL**

I became a Christian in college when a friend of mine sat me down in the commons room and shared the gospel with me. It was very simple and there was no pressure. That step of faith he made changed my life completely. I am often reminded that I need to do the same for others. Let me ask you, “Do you boldly tell others about the hope you find in Jesus and the reasons why you follow Him?” To help me gain the courage and knowledge to become comfortable doing this, I have followed these steps:

1. I write down three reasons why I would want to tell someone the good news about Jesus.
2. I write down three reasons I do not share the good news of Jesus with others.
3. I write down three steps I will take to prepare myself to be ready to share the Gospel.
4. I commit that on (insert specific date) I will be prepared and prayerfully expecting an opportunity to share my faith with someone.
5. Finally, I continually thank God for the opportunity to share His message of eternal hope.

Always remember that you have the great privilege of being used by God to share His abundant love, constant forgiveness, and purpose in life with others. How amazing is that!

*Bob Norwood*

GO! Contributor

**LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING**

***How to Create a “Moment” that Draws Your Audience In***

Wouldn’t it be great if you could keep kids laser focused on every word you said during a lesson? *(Answer: Yes! That would be a super power greater than both invisibility and flight!)* Unfortunately, that’s often times not the case. No matter how dynamic a lesson is, most kids can only stay laser focused for so long. Part of being an effective communicator is choosing the most important “moment(s)” within a lesson and using your voice and body to package it in a way that draws in your audience. Here are a few tips on creating a “moment” so you can be certain your audience hears what matters most:

**Choose your “moment” wisely:** Any given lesson probably has one or two moments where you really want to draw their attention. Often times, the best place to look for that moment is at or near the end of the lesson when the “Big Idea” is being hammered home. The “Big Idea” is usually the moment the whole lesson has been leading to.

**Don’t make the “moment” too long.** For a kid, you might want to keep your moment to 2 or 3 high impact sentences.

**Pause before the “moment.”** A well placed pause can be very powerful. That short moment of silence can communicate to a kid that something different and interesting is about to be said or done.

**Use your voice.** One way to create a moment is to slow your pace down—give each word just a little extra emphasis. In addition, lower the volume of your voice to just above a whisper. A whisper can grab attention even more than shouting.

**Use your body.**  Using movement and levels can also help to create a powerful moment. As your voice begins to slow down and become quiet, move close to the kids. You may even choose to place yourself in the middle of your audience. Sit down or kneel so that you put yourself almost eye to eye with the kids. Slow down your body movement and hand gestures to match the pace and volume of your voice.

**SET UP INSTRUCTIONS**

Shhh…listen carefully. Do you hear that voice coming from inside of you? Does it have a slightly French accent? If so, it’s probably your inner artist. God has put one in all of us (maybe without the accent) and it’s screaming to get out! That is—until now! During “Artrageous,” kids will have a chance to unleash the artist inside of them by using all kinds of super fun art to tell the Easter story and to picture the outrageous love that Jesus has for us.

**Special “Artrageous” directions:**

* During the “Artrageous” storytelling, kids will be encouraged to use their artistic talents to create whatever comes to mind while listening to the Bible story. They’re free to create the people, the environment, or some special words.
* Below are suggestions for different artistic media to use during the “Artrageous” series. Choose one for each week. You can have the kids use the same medium every week or provide a different medium from week to week. Do not feel limited by the list. Feel free to choose any artistic medium that you can think of.

**Suggested artistic media:**

* Markers on paper
* Crayons on paper
* Colored pencils on paper
* Water color on paper
* Chalk on black construction paper
* Rainbow color scratch paper
* Playdough. (See Resource Folder for a DIY playdough recipe.)
* Pipe cleaners
* Wax Craft sticks
* Temper paint on canvas
* Add ons: stickers, stamps, craft sticks

**Do the following ahead of time:**

* Determine which artistic medium you’ll be using ahead of time and gather the materials.
* If you’re artistic medium uses paper as a “canvas,” consider what kind of paper you would like to use. Here are a few options:
	+ Give each kid their own piece of blank 8½ x 11 paper.
	+ Give each small group one or two pieces of poster board for all of the group to draw on.
	+ Have all of the kids in the room gather around one or two large pieces of butcher block paper to create one giant piece of story art.
	+ Other options include paper plates, brown bags, or construction paper
* Determine how you will display the art made during the lesson. Will they take home their art or do you want to display them for the duration of the unit?
* Place a large paper pad or marker board in the teaching area along with 4-5 different colored markers.
* Create an “Artrageous Mystery Box” by cutting the flaps off of a cardboard box. Print out the “Artrageous Mystery Box” sign and tape it to the box. Decorate the box in any other artistic way that you would like. When finished, hide the day’s art supplies underneath until the big reveal.
* Choose which of the GO! DEEP Reflect and Respond stations you would like to make available. Set out the appropriate materials for each of those stations.

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**CG: “Artrageous” title graphic**

**Sound: PLAY upbeat music as kids move to large group area**

**ARTRAGEOUS INTRO**

**Large Group Leader:** Hello everybody and welcome back to another outrageously artsy week of “Artrageous!” During “Artrageous,” we’re using all kinds of super fun art to talk about the outrageous love that Jesus showed us during the first ever Easter. In just a little bit, we’re going to hear the next part of the Easter story. As you listen to the story, you can draw or create whatever pops into your head. Draw the people. Draw the background. Draw some special words that come to mind. Let your imagination go wild! And if there’s something you don’t know how to draw, that’s okay—just do your best! You might be surprised how artrageously awesome it turns out. Before we get started, though, I want to create my own little art piece. Watch this!

Hold 4 or 5 different colored markers in your hand at one time. With all 4 or 5 markers, write the words “I’m with Jesus!” in large letters on a paper pad or marker board. For younger kids, read the words as you write them.

On the count of 3, shout these words with me. *(Shout with kids.)* 1, 2, 3… “I’m with Jesus!” *(Set markers down.)* Nice job! Let’s try again, but this time shout it like you’re underwater. *(Shout while wiggling finger over lips.)* 1, 2, 3… “I’m with Jesus!” Now shout it like you’re in the library. *(“Shout” quietly.)* 1, 2, 3… “I’m with Jesus!” Now shout it like you’re an alien robot. *(Shout with robot voice.)* 1, 2, 3… “I’m with Jesus!” Let’s do one more. Shout it like you’re in a room full of soldiers with swords who are arresting people who are with Jesus. *(This time count to 3, but don’t shout with kids. Just listen for how they respond.)* 1, 2, 3… *(Kids respond.)*

Hmm—that was a tough one, wasn’t it? What *would* you do in that situation? Would you yell it at the top of your lungs? Would you just whisper it? Would you not say it at all? In the Bible, there’s a true story about a disciple who was in that exact situation. Are you ready to find out what he did? *(Kids respond.)* Alright then—let’s get artrageous! *(Walk to the “Artrageous” mystery box.)* Let’s count down from 5 and then I’ll reveal what today’s artrageous art supply will be. *(Countdown from 5 then lift the box to reveal the day’s artistic medium.)*

**CG: “Big Bible Story” graphic**

**THE BIG BIBLE STORY— PETER DENIES KNOWING JESUS**

When you’re ready to begin, distribute the art materials to the kids. Before reading the story, remind the kids that they can create anything that comes to mind while they listen. In addition to creating art during the telling of the story, there will be three 60-second “Art Breaks” where the story will pause, but the kids can continue creating.

Last week, we heard about how Jesus was arrested for telling people that He was the Son of God, even though it was true. Before Jesus was arrested, though, He had an interesting conversation with one of His disciples named Peter. It went kind of like this: *(Face to the side as if you’re Jesus talking to Peter)* “Peter, the devil is going to make you turn away from me.” *(Face the other way as if you’re Peter talking to Jesus.)* “No way, Jesus! I would go to jail or even die before I turned away from you.” *(Face to the side again as if you’re Jesus.)* “I’m telling you the truth, Peter. Before the rooster crows in the morning, you will say that you don’t know me 3 times.” *(Return to facing the audience.)*

Peter couldn’t believe it. He was one of Jesus’ most loyal disciples. He even tried to stop Jesus from being arrested by cutting a man’s ear off. But it didn’t work and now Jesus was being dragged by guards through the dark streets to the high priest’s house. Peter knew that if the guards saw him, they would probably arrest him too, so carefully and quietly, he stayed hidden in the darkness and followed Jesus from far away. It’s time for an “Artrageous Art Break!” You have 60 seconds to keep on creating before we jump back into the story. *(Pause from story while kids continue creating.)*

**VDO: PLAY “Art Break 60-second Countdown” video**

When the guards finally reached the high priest’s house, they took Jesus inside. There was no way Peter could sneak into the house, he would get caught for sure. So he sat down outside with some people around a campfire. There was only one problem with that—now that Peter was sitting near the light of the fire, people were able to see his face. One of the people was a servant to the high priest. She said to Peter, “I think I recognize you. Aren’t you with Jesus?” Suddenly, Peter felt scared. If he said he was with Jesus, he’d get into trouble, so he said, *(shaking head “no”)* “Jesus? I don’t know that guy.” *(Pause for another art break.)*

**VDO: PLAY “Art Break 60-second Countdown” video**

A little bit later someone else saw Peter sitting by the fire. He also thought he recognized Peter, so he said, “You’re one of Jesus’ disciples, aren’t you?” Peter replied, “No way, no sir—I don’t even know the guy!” About an hour later, another person said something to Peter. “Hey—you’re from Galilee. That’s where Jesus is from. You must be with him.” This time Peter answered more forcefully. “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about! I do NOT know Jesus!!” Just as the last word had finished coming out of Peter’s mouth, a rooster crowed. Right then, Peter remembered what Jesus had told him earlier, “Before the rooster crows in the morning, you will say that you don’t know me 3 times.” Peter couldn’t believe it. As soon as he realized what he had done, he felt so terrible that he ran away and began crying. *(Pause for a final art break.)*

**VDO: PLAY “Art Break 60-second Countdown” video**

At the end of the story, if time permits, choose some kids to show what they created and have them recount what was happening during that part of the story.

**CG: “Big Bible Story Questions” graphic**

**BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS**

At the end of the Bible story have the kids turn briefly to their small groups and discuss the following questions: **For Younger Kids: What was your favorite part of this story? If you were Peter, what do you think you would have done when people asked if you knew Jesus? Why? For Older Kids: Peter said that he was willing to go to jail or even die for Jesus, but then he denied even knowing Him. Why do you think he did that? If you were Peter, what do you think you would have done when people asked if you knew Jesus? Why?** After a few minutes, draw their attention back to the teaching area.

**CG: “Artrageous” title graphic**

**I’M WITH JESUS**

Wow—can you believe that? Peter said that he would go to jail or even die before he would ever pretend like he didn’t know Jesus. But later on, Peter was asked three times if he was with Jesus, and all three times Peter said, “No—I don’t know Him!” Why do you think he did that? *(Take answers.)* Great answers! Peter was scared of what people would think or do if they knew that he was with Jesus.

Do you ever feel that way? Do you ever feel a little bit scared that people might think you’re weird or crazy because you follow Jesus? Sometimes it’s really easy to tell people that you’re a Christian and other times it can be a little bit hard. Let’s play a game that will help us think about how we can boldly tell others that we’re with Jesus even when we’re in a tough situation like Peter. *(Walk to paper pad or marker board.)* I’m going show you my art skills again. This time I’m going to draw a picture. See if you can guess what I’m drawing.

Draw each of the 3 pictures listed below. After each picture has been guessed correctly, present the kids with the corresponding scenario and ask how they would respond.

**Draw a Bible.** At your birthday party, your parents give you a new Bible. Your friend says, “You don’t really believe that Jesus stuff, do you?” Would you say anything? If so, what would you say?

**Draw a sandwich.** You’re sitting at the school lunch table when one of your friends says that going to church is for boring and dumb people. Would you say anything? If so, what would you say?

**Draw someone singing.** During a talent show, you sing your favorite Christian song. Afterwards, a kid in your class says, “That song was dumb. All it talks about is Jesus.” Would you say anything? If so, what would you say?

Great job—those were some amazing answers! Sometimes it’s easy to shout “I’m with Jesus!” at the top of your lungs. Other times, though, you might want to just whisper it or not say it at all. But our Bible verse today says that we should NEVER be ashamed to shout it out loud. Let’s take a look at it together. *(Encourage the kids to open their Bibles to Romans 1:16. When ready, choose a kid to read the verse aloud or read it aloud yourself as the kids follow along.)*

**CG: “I’m not ashamed of the good news. It is God’s power to save everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16**

**NOT ASHAMED**

The good news is that Jesus has saved us from our sins and anyone who believes that we will have forever life in Heaven. We don’t need to be ashamed to tell people that we believe the good news of Jesus, even if they don’t agree with us or if they think it’s weird. If we boldly say, “I’m with Jesus!” and tell people the good news about what He did on the cross, they might believe and be saved from their sins too.

*(Sit or kneel near kids.)* In today’s story, Peter followed Jesus through the streets, but he did it from far away and while hiding in the darkness. And at the end, he pretended like he didn’t know Jesus. When you’re a Christian, it’s like you follow Jesus too, but you don’t have to be like Peter in today’s story. You don’t have to follow Jesus from far away, you can stick close by His side. You don’t have to hide in the darkness, you can let everyone see how much you love Him. You don’t have to pretend like you don’t know Jesus, you can boldly say, “I’m with Him!”

Close the GO! TELL IT Large group time by praying for the kids in whatever way the Holy Spirit prompts you. Following the prayer, explain to the kids which of the GO! DEEP Reflect and Respond Stations will be available. Remind them to move about the stations very quietly. Tell them they are free to respond to God in whatever way the Holy Spirit leads them, but if they need suggestions, some of the stations will give them ideas for how to pray, write, or draw. Give each child one “GO! Home” sheet and instruct them to take it with them to the stations. Place small group leaders at the different stations to quietly help the kids. The stations listed below are just the ones that have prompts that are specific to today’s lesson. For more instructions on how the GO! DEEP Reflect and Respond Stations work as well as a full list of possible stations, see the “GO! Guide.”

**CG: “Artrageous” title graphic**

**Music: (Optional) Play quiet reflective music**



**Prayer Station prompt:** Write a prayer to Jesus and tell Him, “I’m with You!”

**Journal Station prompt:** Do you know somebody who doesn’t know about the good news of Jesus? How could you tell them the good news? What would you say? Write about it.

**Bible Station prompt:** Read it for yourself: Luke 22:31-34, 54-62. Draw a picture of the story or write to God about your favorite part of the story. Tell Him why you liked it.

**Art Station prompt:**  Draw a picture of yourself standing next to Jesus. Write the words, “I’m with Jesus!”