

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### PETER MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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#### Acts 3:1-10 Peter heals a crippled man

After Pentecost, the followers of Jesus could do miracles and told people about his Holy Spirit. But some were persecuted for their beliefs. This week we explore how we can help others who are being persecuted for their beliefs.

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

- Accessories / clothing like hat/scarf/sunglasses/jewellery (optional) – see Start It section
- To be familiar with the guidelines on writing to children who are facing persecution: see <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/letter> Select a response suitable for your group, eg letter/card/colouring-in/artwork – see Action It section

### Start It

Play a game of *Spot the Difference*. Divide the group into two teams. Stand the group in a line opposite each other. One team will be the 'spotters' and one team will 'make the difference'. Give the 'spotters' a minute to look carefully at the 'make the difference' group then ask them to turn away so that they are not facing the other group.

The 'make the difference' group each have to change one thing about their appearance, eg tie their hoodie around their waist, brush their hair differently, tuck a trouser leg into a sock. (You may want to provide additional clothing.) The 'spotters' then turn around and guess what has changed. Then reverse the roles of the teams.

### Sing It

● **Say:** Today's song gives you a sneak preview of the story we will be looking at later.

'Peter and John went to pray' by Quiz Worx (2 mins 59 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnQRNwX92Pw>

### Tell It

● **Say:** In the last session we looked at the difference that the Holy Spirit made in the lives of the disciples. One of the people transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit was Peter. Listen to this story about Peter before he was given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Read Luke 22:54-62 (*ICB*).

**'They arrested Jesus and took him away. They brought him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed them, but he did not go near Jesus. The soldiers started a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat together. Peter sat with them. A servant girl saw Peter sitting there near the light. She looked closely at Peter's face and said, "This man was also with him!"**

'But Peter said this was not true. He said, "Girl, I don't know him."

'A short time later, another person saw Peter and said, "You are also one of them."

'But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

'About an hour later, another man insisted, "It is true! This man was with him. He is from Galilee!"

'But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!"

'Immediately, while Peter was still speaking, a rooster crowed. Then the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. And Peter remembered what the Lord had said: "Before the rooster crows tonight, you will say three times that you don't know me." Then Peter went outside and cried with much pain in his heart.'

**Ask:** How confident do you think Peter was about sharing that he knew Jesus? If 'zero' is not at all and 'ten' is totally confident, then what number would you choose for Peter?

🗨️ **Say:** After Pentecost, Peter was like a different person.

**Read:** Acts 2:14; Acts 14:38-41 (ICB).

'But Peter stood up with the eleven apostles. In a loud voice he spoke to the crowd: "My fellow Jews, and all of you who are in Jerusalem, listen to me. Pay attention to what I have to say."

'Peter said to them, "Change your hearts and lives and be baptised, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you. It is also for your children and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself."

'Peter warned them with many other words. He begged them, "Save yourselves from the evil of today's people!" Then those people who accepted what Peter said were baptised. About 3,000 people were added to the number of believers that day.'

**Ask:**

➔ After Pentecost, when Peter received the gift of the Holy Spirit, how confident do you think he was about sharing that he knew Jesus? If 'zero' is not at all and 'ten' is totally confident, then what number would you choose for Peter now?

➔ What difference did the Holy Spirit make in Peter's life?

🗨️ **Say:** Peter's new-found confidence came through the power of the Holy Spirit. Not only did this gift from Jesus make a difference in the life of Peter, but he was also now able to make a difference in the lives of others as well.

## Video

*Peter heals a beggar who can't walk* by Saddleback Kids (1 min 57 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orp4ZT9710Y>

## Discuss:

➔ How do you think the man felt sitting and begging by the side of the Temple gate every day?

➔ When Peter and John met the beggar, what was he hoping to get from them?

➔ What did Peter do instead?

➔ How do you think that made the beggar feel?

➔ Do you think Peter would have been able to heal the beggar without the gift of the Holy Spirit? Explain your answer.

➔ What did Peter remind all the people about?

🗨️ **Say:** Just like Peter, we can make an amazing difference in the lives of others when we are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Action It

### Ask:

- How do you feel about telling other people about Jesus and how much you love him?
- What kind of reaction do you get when you tell them?
- What makes you unsure about sharing that you're a Christian?

🗨️ **Say:** Today we have read about the difference the Holy Spirit made in the lives of the disciples and their new-found confidence to tell the world about Jesus. Things weren't always straightforward for the disciples, however, and many of them faced prison, or even death, for sharing their beliefs. A disciple named Stephen was the first to lose his life for sharing his faith with others. The authorities at the time were so angry about what he was saying that they had him killed.

**Optional:** Stephen's story is found in Acts 6:10 to 7:60 if you want to read or summarise it to the group.

### Ask:

- Do you think there are people today who face danger for sharing the good news about Jesus?
- If so, what do you know about them?

## Video

*Hami's story* by Open Doors UK and Ireland (1 min 57 secs)

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/children-at-home>

**Ask:** How does it make you feel knowing that there are children in the world that wouldn't be able to gather together like we are to talk about Jesus?

🗨️ **Say:** We can sometimes feel a little helpless when we see situations like this, and we don't know how to help. But just as Peter used the power of the Holy Spirit to help the beggar, he can guide us to make a difference in the lives of others.

## Letter/Artwork

Explain that the children are going to write, or send a piece of artwork, to children who are facing persecution for their beliefs. Before the children start the activity, share a brief prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide the children's writing and artwork so that it brings hope to those who will see it.

## Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** In today's Bible reading, Peter said to the beggar, 'I don't have any silver or gold, but I do have something else I can give you: by the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth – stand up and walk!'" (Acts 3:6 *ICB*)

🗨️ **Say:** God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, can do amazing things in our lives.

**Ask:** Where would you like to make a difference in the world?

After the children have shared their thoughts, remind the group of this month's Bible verse:

**'The true children of God are those who let God's Spirit lead them.'**

— (Romans 8:14 *ICB*)

Pray for each one of them asking for God's Holy Spirit to guide them to make a difference in the world, just like Peter did.

Remind the group to let the Holy Spirit guide them to make a difference

# Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It Ideas for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

### FOR ME



#### Create

Create a picture or collage that represents the Holy Spirit.

What colours and shapes remind you of the Holy Spirit?

Create your picture and put it up on your wall to remind you to ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance every day.

### TOGETHER



#### Watch

Watch the clip with someone at home and talk about the children featured in it.

*If seven kids can change the world – you can do it too* by Inspire More

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPY0LqeQet0>

How do these children inspire you to make a difference?

Most of the children in the clip started their journey with one small step. What small step could you take to make a difference in the lives of others?

Pray together, asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance about your next step to making a difference.



#### Song for the week

'Peter and John went to pray' by Quiz Worx

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnQRNwX92Pw>



#### Memory verse

**'The true children of God are those who let God's Spirit lead them.'**

— Romans 8:14 (ICB)

#### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

*Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

