Lesson 7: We Have Authority

Overview:

Key Focus: We have power and authority through the name of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Bible Story: Peter Uses His Authority from Jesus to Heal the Lame Man

Scriptures: John 10:10, 14:12; Acts 3:1–10, 4:1–4, 29–30; Luke 9:1

Memory Verse: Luke 10:19 (NKJV) Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Beach ball or balloon

Engage:

Let's talk about authority. Stand up if you have a dog. Why do you train your dog to obey your authority? (Possible answers: When the dog obeys my authority, he won't run into the street and get hit; my things won't get chewed up, the dog is easier to be around and play with.) **How do you show your authority over the dog?** (Possible answers: Give the dog a command to obey; teach hand signals to obey; use a stern voice so the dog knows he has to obey; make the dog lay down in submission.)

Our city has police who are given authority to enforce laws. What are some things they are given authority to do? (Possible answers: They arrest people who break the law; they can pull over cars that speed; they talk to people about laws.) **Sometimes the police are called to a park or a home where people are fighting. Do the police beg people to please get along?** (No.) **The police don't beg—they use their authority. Their badge shows that they have authority. Their authority is given to them by the police station that is on the badge. Do police officers go around town and make up laws they want to enforce?** (No.) **The police officers have a job to enforce the laws that exist. Police officers study and know the laws they enforce. Today's lesson will show you the authority you have been given by Jesus.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the verse. Have the children gather in a group in an open space, but not touching each other (leave about an arm's length between people). Toss the beach ball or balloon up and children keep the ball up in the air while everyone says the memory verse. On the last word of the verse, the last child touching the ball says the Bible reference. Continue playing and saying the verse several times.

Memory Verse: Luke 10:19 (NKJV) Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Bible Story:

Today we will talk about authority that is given to us from Jesus. Every time you hear the word "authority" during our Bible lesson, I want you to give one stomp of your foot as a reminder of the Christian's power and authority. Have the children practice giving one stomp.

Our authority is to enforce what the Bible says. Just like police officers, we need to learn and know what our authority is and what God's plan for our authority is. We don't use our authority to be selfish or command people to give us things. Our authority is to be used to bring God glory so that people will learn about God's love and salvation.

Police use their authority against law breakers or criminals. One previous Memory Verse we learned shows who we use our authority against. Recite together or read John 10:10. **Satan, the enemy of God, tries to stop people from hearing about salvation and becoming a Christian. We have power and authority from God that is greater than anything Satan and his demons try to do to stop us. God expects us to use our authority in the name of Jesus to stop the evil.**

Read John 14:12. **Jesus says that His followers will do the works He did and even greater works. What are some of the works Jesus did when He was on the earth?** (Jesus healed people, cast out demons, and raised the dead.) **When Jesus returned to heaven, He promised a powerful gift to live inside people who believed that He forgave their sins. What was the powerful gift?** (The Holy Spirit lives inside people who receive salvation.) **The Holy Spirit inside us and the power in the name of Jesus give us spiritual authority. Let's look at an example of how Jesus' followers used their authority after they were filled with the Holy Spirit.**

Read Acts 3:1–3. **Where were Peter and John, and what were they doing?** (Peter and John went to the temple to pray.) **Who did they see at the temple?** (They saw a lame man asking for alms.) **A lame person is someone who can't walk. This verse tells us that he had**

people who cared about him and carried him to the temple where he could ask for money. In Bible times, a lame person didn't have a wheelchair or money from the government. He couldn't work and earn a living, so he depended on people going to the temple to have compassion and give him money.

Read Acts 3:4–6. **What did the lame man expect Peter to do?** (The lame man expected Peter to give him money.) **Peter knew the power of the Holy Spirit was inside him, and he knew the power in the name of Jesus. Peter used his authority. He told the lame man that he would share what he had, but it wasn't the money that the lame man wanted. What Peter had was worth so much more than money could buy. If Peter gave the lame man money, the lame man might buy food to eat but he would still be lame and need to beg every day. Peter didn't command God to give him money so he could give the money to the lame man. Peter knew that it was God's best to heal the man. Peter didn't beg God to heal the man because Peter knew that he had been give power from Jesus to do what he had seen Jesus do.**

Read Acts 3:7–10. **How did the healing take place?** (Peter took the lame man by the hand and lifted him up.) **How do we know that the man was healed?** (The man started walking, leaping, and praising God.) Select volunteers to portray the healing as they lay down, you take them by the right hand and lift them up and walk, leap, and praise God. **The man had been lame for over 40 years, but Peter used authority in the name of Jesus to instantly heal him. Show me how the people watching responded.** Have the children show wonder and amazement. **The people who saw the miracle were amazed and immediately Peter began to boldly preach. He told the crowd that God did the miracle and then reminded them about Jesus. Let's see what the result of Peter's sermon was.**

Read Acts 4:1–4. **How did the religious leaders react?** (The religious leaders were upset and arrested Peter and John.) **How did the crowd react?** (About 5,000 men believed in Jesus as their Savior!) **Peter used his spiritual authority to heal the lame man, and the result was people believed in Jesus. Do you think there would have been that many believers if Peter had given the man money?** (No.) **When we use our authority and miracles happen, people recognize this is something supernatural and are ready to hear about Jesus. Peter showed us exactly what to do. Even though he was put in jail for healing someone, the very next day Peter began to preach to the leaders who questioned him. Using authority takes boldness and that's exactly what they prayed for after the leaders set them free but told them not to teach in the name of Jesus.** Read Acts 4:29–30. **They prayed for boldness to preach and do miracles in the name of Jesus. They were ready to take their authority so people would be become part of God's family through accepting Jesus' forgiveness of their sins.**

Today's Memory Verse talks about some of the things that Jesus gave us authority over. Recite Luke 10:19 together. **Does this verse tell us to go out and find snakes to step on so we can test our authority?** (No.) **We are to use our authority to bring God glory and to stop evil.** Read Luke 9:1. **Jesus gave power and authority to His 12 disciples, who were His witnesses after He returned to heaven. They had authority over demons and diseases. We have this same authority but it isn't a game to get attention on us or get things we selfishly**

want. We have power and shouldn't be afraid to use it for God so that people will learn about Jesus. God loves people and ministers to them through Christians who know their authority and use it. We want the result of boldly using our authority to be people receiving salvation, just like Peter and John's experience. Lead a cheer for taking authority so there would be salvations.

Bible Story Questions:

- **Who did Jesus give His authority to?** (Jesus gave His authority first to the 12 disciples and then to all believers in Him.)
- **What are Jesus' followers to do with the authority from Him**? (Believers are to use the authority to bring glory to God and people to salvation.)
- **How did Peter use his authority for God's glory?** (He healed a lame man and 5,000 men became believers.)
- **Why did Jesus give us power over Satan and demons?** (Satan and demons want to stop the work of God.)
- **How will you learn more about your spiritual authority this week?** Remind the children that learning about God's Word helps us know our authority and how to use it.

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Play "Simon Says" to reinforce the authority of what is spoken. Give commands and the children only obey the commands that start with "Simon says, …" If someone obeys a statement that doesn't begin with "Simon says" that person sits down. Keep playing until the last person gets out. Continue playing several more times and select a new volunteer each time to be "Simon."

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Divide the class into two groups. One side says, "I have authority," and the other side says, "in the name of Jesus." Have them repeat this several times as they march around the room. Continue this pattern, but switch the phrases.

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Explain to the class that the events of Acts 3 and 4 would make an exciting movie. As you read Acts 3 and 4 have them analyze the events and results so they will dramatize it afterward. Allow time for them to talk about how they will act out the story, and after a few minutes, have them perform it.

Worksheet:
Guide the children to use the code to solve the words. Set out markers or colored pencils for the children to design a badge showing they have authority in the name of Jesus. On the back

of their papers, have them draw themselves using their authority in the name of Jesus. Remind them their authority needs to match God's will.

Affirmation/Declaration:
Jesus used His power to do miracles.
Jesus gave me His authority.
I have authority in the name of Jesus.
I'm not afraid to use my authority for God's glory.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
We live in a culture today where people don't respect or care about authority. Youth today seem to get away with things that go against what the authorities say. God's Word is clear that all power and authority was given to Jesus and He gives that authority to His followers. Spiritual authority is God's idea to stop evil from keeping people from hearing and receiving salvation. Encourage the children to desire to see people receive salvation through their bold witness and using their spiritual authority.

Missions Connection:
The demonic seems very rampant in some cultures and areas of the world. Pray for missionaries to use their authority and power in the name of Jesus to preach boldly and see salvations. If you have access to church missionary newsletters, show the children and have volunteers pray for the needs and praise for the answered prayer requests shared.

Family Connection:
As a family look through the book of Acts for examples of using spiritual authority and boldness. Look for what resulted when bold authority was used. Point out that casting out demons removes what stops someone from hearing about Jesus and miracles open people to want to receive salvation. Spend time helping your child understand what areas of authority he or she might use during the week. Role play scenarios to help your child practice boldly using spiritual authority. Learning about spiritual authority from God's Word will help your child know what to enforce and how to enforce it. The goal is to have children who know the power they have been given and boldly use it for God's glory and building God's kingdom.

Prayer Points:
Have the children share ways the prayers last week for boldness and opportunities to be Jesus' witnesses were answered. Remind them that Peter and John prayed for boldness and to do miracles in Jesus' names so there would be salvations. Let volunteers pray for boldness and miracles. Close by praying for each child to desire their own salvation and the salvation of others.

Name _____

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Fill in the missing consonants to discover some of the works that Jesus did and so can YOU!

Jesus healed the _i_ _, cleansed the _e_e_ _, raised the _ea_, made _ _i_ _ eyes see and _ea_ ears hear, and made the lame _a_ _.

Design a badge showing you have authority in the name of Jesus.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture of you using your authority in the name of Jesus.*

Answers:

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Fill in the missing consonants to discover some of the works that Jesus did and so can YOU!

Jesus healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, raised the dead, made blind eyes see and deaf ears hear, and made the lame walk.

Design a badge showing you have authority in the name of Jesus.



BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture of you using your authority in the name of Jesus.*

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