**Leader Overview**



**Volume Overview**

**Expect the Unexpected**

*We all make plans—plans for where we’re going and what we want to do. But life is more often a story of unexpected interruptions. Our faith helps us to recognize God’s hand at work in unanticipated ways. By faith we learn to embrace life’s interruptions as the place God so often does miraculous things. We learn to respond with compassion and faith when things seem impossible.*

**Session Overview**

**Welcome Interruptions**

*In this* **Live** *session, kids will discover how Peter and John followed the example Jesus had set for them. They took time out of their busy schedules to care for someone else’s needs and his life was changed forever. Kids will learn that they need to make time for the interruptions God puts in their paths. There is always time to care for others.*

**Bible Lesson**

Peter and John Encounter a Beggar

[Acts 3:1–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac3.1-11)

**Faith Fact**

I can take time for others.

**Faith Verse**

[Proverbs 3:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.5-6) (NLT)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

**Preparing for the Session**

**Leader Preparation Time: 20–25 Minutes**

|  |
| --- |
| ***You Will Need***  ***Large Group***   * *Bible* * *Worship songs (Song suggestions: “Way Maker” by Leeland; “Surrounded (Fight My Battles)” by Bethel Music; “Battle Belongs” by Phil Wickham; “Zeal” Lyric Video by The Belonging Co)* * *For groups not using a phone or tablet only, add:*   + *Projector or TV*   + *Laptop*   + ***Faith Fact Slide***   + ***Faith Verse Video or Slide***   + ***Bible Lesson Video***   + ***Teaching Point Slides 1–3***   + ***Large Group Teaching Time Slide***   ***Small Group***   * *Bibles for kids in the group to share* * *Small timer that can be passed around the group without being broken, one per group (If not available, use a ball and separate timer.)* * ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid* * *Pencils or pens, one per kid* * *Crayons or markers*   *To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:* [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads) |
| ***Getting Ready***  ***Large Group***   * *Download videos and slides if needed.* * *Select worship song(s) and have them ready to play.* * *Read the Bible Lesson Scripture to prepare for Teaching Time.*   ***Small Group***   * *Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.*   *First time leading* Live *for Kids? Check out the* [*Facilitator Guide*](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)*.* |

**Large Group**

**30 Minutes**

*See what’s needed at the beginning of the session.*

**Introduction**

Hi, everyone! I’m so glad you’re here today. We’re going to talk about expecting the unexpected or being ready for surprises. Raise your hand if you love plans and routines. *(Group response)* Having a plan can be helpful, but life doesn’t always go the way we planned. Sometimes unexpected things happen. But nothing ever surprises God.

Today we’ll find out how to welcome interruptions. An *interruption* is anything that stops what you’re doing or gets in the way of your plan. Welcoming interruptions means you’re ready to change your plan when interruptions happen. Sometimes God places interruptions in our path for a reason. Have you ever been interrupted by someone else’s needs? *(Group response)*

• *Share a personal story about a time when you were interrupted by someone else’s needs. Try to keep it light and something kids can relate to.*

**Faith Fact**

It can be hard to change our plans when someone else needs help. But remember, we *all* need help sometimes. We want other people to take time for us, so we should try to be ready when God wants us to help someone else. Our Faith Fact today is **I can take time for others.**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide.***



Let’s say the Faith Fact together. As we say it each time, let’s connect with someone and give them a fist bump. Let’s say it three times. **I can take time for others.** *(Pause for kids to say the Faith Fact three times and fist bump three other kids.)* When we make time for each other, no one will feel alone or left out.

**Game**

**Walk, Leap, Praise**

|  |
| --- |
| *No prep is needed for this activity.* |

In our Bible story today, we’ll see how two of Jesus’ followers set aside their plan and took time to care for a man who needed help. The man reacted to what happened: He walked, he leaped, and he praised God. Let’s use those three actions to play a fun game. First, I’ll show you the motions.

• *Show kids the three motions:*

• *Walk—Walk in place.*

• *Leap—Jump up and down.*

• *Praise—Raise your hands in the air.*

• *Practice the motions with the kids a few times.*

When I shout out, “Walk,” “Leap,” or “Praise,” everyone will do that action. But there’s one more motion you need to know. Interruption! God sometimes uses interruptions to get our attention and show us that someone needs help. In our game, if I say one motion and do another, that’s your signal for an interruption—which means everyone should freeze. I think we’re ready to play!

• *Shout out instructions (walk, leap, or praise).*

• *Mix in interruptions by giving an instruction and doing an action that don’t match.*

• *Optional: Choose kids to give instructions.*

That was a lot of fun! You did a great job watching and listening for interruptions. In our Bible story, we’re going to find out how a couple of Jesus’ followers, Peter and John, did the same thing. They were ready when God interrupted their plans so they could help a man who couldn’t walk. God healed the man who began walking and leaping and praising God. I think I’d do the same thing if I were healed! Before we find out more about our Bible story, it’s time to worship God.

**Worship**

Let’s be like the man who was healed and take some time to praise God right now through singing!

• *Lead the kids in singing one or two praise songs. See suggestions at the beginning of the session.*

**Bible Lesson**

That was wonderful! Thanks for worshipping and praising God with me today through singing. Taking time to help others is another way we can worship God. Jesus is the best example of taking time to care for others. Do you think Jesus was busy when He was on earth? *(Group response)* I’m sure He was super busy, but He made time to teach, heal, and love people. He taught His disciples to do the same.

Before we find out more about Peter and John’s interruption, let’s pray and ask God to help us hear and understand His Word.

**Prayer**

|  |
| --- |
| *Dear God, thanks for giving us examples in the Bible of how we can take time to care for others. Help us learn to welcome the interruptions You place in front of us. Help us let go of our own plan so we can be part of Your plan. Amen.* |

**Video Intro**

Let’s take a look at this video, and then we’ll dive into the Bible story.

• *Play* ***Bible Lesson Video****.*



**Bible Story**

**Peter and John Encounter a Beggar**

That was such a great lead-in to our Bible story! Dash had big plans for his day, but he was willing to pause his plans and help his mom instead. He told us a lot about the Bible story too. Our Bible story happened after Jesus went back to heaven. Even though Jesus wasn’t living on earth with His disciples anymore, they continued His mission. What do you think a normal day would have been like for one of Jesus’ disciples? *(Allow responses.)*

Those are some great ideas. I’m sure the disciples did a lot of praying and preaching because the Church was growing. They also spent time sleeping and eating like anyone else. Maybe they had busy schedules to keep up with. We’re not sure about that, but we do know they were ready for interruptions. Let’s look closer at one interruption that happened to Peter and John on a seemingly normal day.

**Teaching Time**

While we’re reading this incredible story about how one little interruption completely changed someone’s life, let’s keep our Faith Fact in mind. **I can take time for others**.

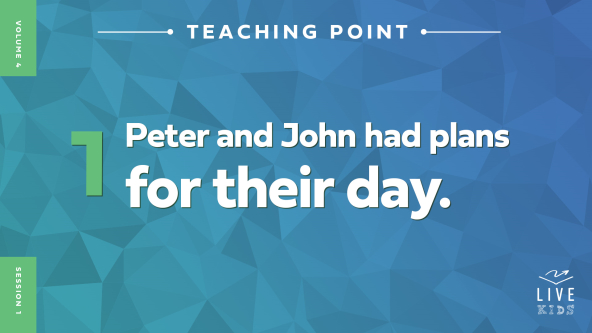
Grab your Bible or pull up a Bible app on your device. Turn to [Acts 3:1–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac3.1-11).

• *In order to keep Large Group time moving along, we recommend that the leader reads the Scripture portions aloud.*

• *Optional: Remind the kids to mark this place with a bookmark, so they can read it on their own at home.*

**1. Peter and John had plans for their day.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 1 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Acts 3:1–2*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac3.1-2)*.*

Let’s imagine Peter and John heading to the temple that day. What does the Bible say they were planning to do? *(Allow responses.)* Right! They had a specific plan to pray at the temple at three o’clock. When they got close to the temple, they saw a man near the temple gate. Was he at the temple to pray? *(Group response)*

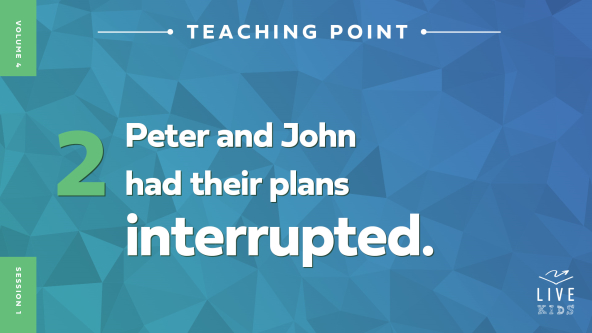
We don’t know for sure. Maybe the man prayed while he was at the temple, but the Bible does tell us that he came there to beg for money. The man had never been able to walk, and in those days there weren’t many jobs for people like him. So he sat by the gate of the temple and asked people to give him money. What do you think he needed the money for? *(Allow responses.)* That’s right. He needed money to buy food, clothes, and maybe even pay for a place to live.

Do you think Peter and John expected to be interrupted on their way to the temple? *(Group response)* Probably not. Unexpected or surprise interruptions can be frustrating. That is, unless the unexpected interruption is a fun surprise—like a free trip to someplace fun! What fun place would you choose? *(Allow responses.)*

Any of those are interruptions I could easily welcome into my day! What is a fun, unexpected interruption you would love to have? *(Allow responses.)* Those interruptions sound like a lot of fun. But I noticed something. Most of the interruptions we love are all about us. But what happens when we’re interrupted for someone else’s needs? Let’s keep reading.

**2. Peter and John had their plans interrupted.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 2 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Acts 3:3–5*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac3.3-5)*.*

If Peter and John stopped to help the man when he asked for money, what would happen to their plan to pray at the temple? *(Allow responses.)* Well, most likely they’d be late. In fact, if we read the rest of the chapter, we see that their plans to pray at three o’clock just didn’t happen. Instead, Peter started preaching to the crowd who gathered. We’ll find out why in a moment.

Was Peter and John’s plan to pray at the temple bad or wrong? *(Group response)* Not at all! They had a good plan. I need a volunteer to come up here and tell us everything you are planning to do tomorrow.

• *Choose a kid to come up, and allow them to start sharing their plans.*

• *Interrupt the kid after 15–30 seconds, and tell them that their plan has changed. Instead, they will spend the day helping someone. Then ask if they liked the fact that you changed their plans.*

• *Thank the kid for volunteering and allow them to be seated.*

It may not always be easy or fun to have our plans interrupted. But if God has something different for you to do, be open to letting Him change your plans. His plans are always better than ours!

When the man spoke to Peter and John, they looked at him. Even though other people might have ignored him, they welcomed his interruption. But they didn’t give him what he asked for. Instead, God used them to meet a much bigger need that he had.

**3. Peter and John welcomed the interruption.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 3 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Acts 3:6–11*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac3.6-11)*.*

What did the man ask for? *(Group response)* And what did he get? *(Group response)* He asked for something that would change his day. Instead, he got something that changed his life!

Just like Peter and John weren’t expecting to be interrupted, the man wasn’t expecting to be healed. He was so excited that he started praising God as he walked and jumped around! He went right into the temple with Peter and John, and people noticed that he’d been healed. They were amazed by the miracle, which gave Peter an opening to tell them all about Jesus.

How can we welcome interruptions to our plans? How can we choose to help the people God sends our way? Here’s a way to remember. Hold up your left hand and make the letter *L* with your thumb and forefinger.

• *Wait for all the kids to make the letter* L *with their left hand.*

• *Show the* ***Large Group Teaching Time Slide****.*



There are three easy ways to welcome God’s interruptions. And they all start with the letter *L*. The first way is *Look*. Say that with me, “Look.” *(Group response)* Look for people who need your help. They are all around us every day, but we miss them when we aren’t looking for them.

The second way is *Listen*. Say that with me, “Listen.” *(Group response)* Listen to people. Let them tell you about their needs. Sometimes people just need someone to sit and listen to them. Make sure you also listen to God. He will help you know how to help someone in the best way.

And the third way is *Let go*. Say that with me, “Let go.” *(Group response)* Always be willing to let go of your plan and pick up God’s plan. Look, listen, and let go!

**Prayer and Response**

*Consider playing a worship song softly in the background while kids pray.*

We can learn a lot from Peter and John in this story. They decided to take time out of their day to help someone else. They could have ignored the man and made it to the temple by three o’clock to pray. But instead, they let God use them to change the man’s life forever. The Bible tells us that even more people’s lives were changed because Peter and John obeyed God.

Will you be like Peter and John? Will you welcome interruptions? When we follow God, He uses us to care for other people and show His love. Let’s ask God to help us look, listen, and let go of our own plans so we can be used by Him. Let’s pray.

**Prayer**

*Optional: Have the kids repeat phrases of the prayer after you.*

|  |
| --- |
| *Dear God, thank You for showing me why I should welcome interruptions. Help me to look for people who need help, listen to them, and then let go of my plan. Your plan will always be better than mine. Amen.* |

**Faith Verse**

Our Faith Verse reminds us to trust God’s plan and let Him show us what to do. Let’s learn it together.

• *Play* ***Faith Verse Video****.*



[Proverbs 3:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.5-6)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

If we choose to trust God and ask Him what we should do, He will show us His plan.

**Faith Fact**

Before we move on, let’s go over our Faith Fact again. **I can take time for others.**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide****.*



Let’s say the Faith Fact together a couple of more times. *(Pause for kids to say the Faith Fact a couple of times.)* This time, turn to the person on your right and tell them, “I can take time for you.” *(Group response)* Great! Now, turn to the person on your left and tell them, “I can take time for you.” *(Group response)* Now, let’s remember to take time for others this week.

• *Dismiss kids to Small Group time or to go home if your group time ends here.*

**Small Group**

**30 Minutes**

*This section can be done in conjunction with the large group or on its own if you do small groups with your kids. During Small Group time, the goal is to connect the kids with the Word of God and to each other. All activities are led by the small group leader.*

**Group Connection**

**Time Out!**

|  |
| --- |
| *No prep needed for this activity.* |

Jesus took time to stop what He was doing and take care of people’s needs. And He taught His disciples by example to treat other people that way too. It’s easy to be too busy and think we don’t have time for interruptions. But we all have people who take time out to help us. Who takes time out to care for you? *(Allow responses.)*

Let’s practice taking time out in today’s game. I’ll give you a motion or exercise to do. Keep doing it until I say, “Time out!” Then you’ll freeze in whatever position you’re in. Then I’ll give you a new motion to do, and I’ll say, “Keep going!” That’s when you can start moving again. Are you ready to give it a try? *(Group response)*

• *Give kids different motions to do: spin, run in place, freestyle moves, jump, hop on one foot, do jumping jacks, skip, pat your head, balance on one leg, etc.*

• *Allow the kids to do each motion for 10–30 seconds before saying, “Time out!”*

• *Optional: Choose a volunteer to lead the group.*

You did an amazing job taking time out. It’s a lot harder to take a time-out in real life when others need help. Let’s remember to ask God to help us take the time to show others we care.

**Bible Lesson Recap**

• *If small group activities are not immediately following large group time, you may want to read the Bible story passage before the discussion.*

|  |
| --- |
| ***You Will Need***   * *Bibles for kids in the group to share*   *No prep needed for this activity.* |

**Bible Story Review: Peter and John Encounter a Beggar** [**Acts 3:1–11**](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac3.1-11)

Peter and John had plans. They were heading to the temple to pray. But then a man asked them for money, and they stopped to help him. The man couldn’t walk, and he had been begging at the temple for a long time. Peter and John could have just walked on by, but they welcomed the interruption. They didn’t have any money, but Peter offered him something so much better—the healing he needed.

The man’s response to the healing was incredible. The man began walking, leaping, and praising God. He didn’t care who saw him praising God, because he was so excited about what God had done for him. His life had completely changed in a moment. Peter and John took the time to stop, and because of that, everyone at the temple saw a miracle and heard the good news about Jesus.

• *Optional: Give each kid a Bible and read the Bible story together.*

**Group Discussion**

*Feel free to use all or just a few questions as a jumping-off place for good discussion. Questions marked with \* are designed for more conversation. Adjust the questions based on the age or maturity of your group. Typically, older kids will be able to dive a little deeper than younger ones.*

**Questions**

What do you think life was like for the man who couldn’t walk in our Bible story?

The man was asking for money, but what did he need even more?

Why were Peter and John going to the temple?

Do you think it was convenient for Peter and John to stop? Why or why not?

What did the man do when Peter told him to “get up and walk”?

\* How do you think the man’s life was different after he was healed?

How did the man’s healing affect the other people who saw it happen?

\* Why is it important to take time out for others’ needs?

\* How can you welcome interruptions this week to care for someone else?

**Live It**

**Faith Fact**

Our Faith Fact today is **I can take time for others.** Say that with me one more time. **I can take time for others.** How did Peter and John take time for the man in the Bible story? *(Allow responses.)* They listened to the man, stopped, and Peter offered him even more than he asked for.

Peter and John could have ignored the man and made it to the temple for prayer at three o’clock. But instead, they took time to care about his needs. God totally changed this man’s life, and it was worth the interruption to their plans.

**Challenge**

What is something you could take some time to do for someone else this week? *(Allow responses.)* I want to challenge you to do look for people in need, listen to their needs, and let go of your own plan so you can help them. Let’s commit to doing that this week. Even the smallest actions can mean a lot. They might even change someone’s life for the better.

**Prayer**

*Finish group discussion by sharing prayer requests and praise reports. Keep track of your small group’s prayer requests and review them each time you meet.*

• *Have kids share and pray for each other’s prayer requests.*

|  |
| --- |
| *Dear God, help me take time out this week to show someone I care about them. I want them to know that You see them and love them. Amen.* |

**Faith Verse Review**

|  |
| --- |
| ***You Will Need***   * *Small timer that can be passed around the group without being broken, one per group (If not available, use a ball and separate timer.)*   *No prep is needed for this activity.* |

Our Faith Verse is [Proverbs 3:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.5-6). It reminds us to trust God’s plan more than our own plan every single time.

• *Show* ***Faith Verse Video****.*



[Proverbs 3:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.5-6)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

We have a brand-new Faith Verse today, and it’s a great one! Do your best to remember it for our game.

• *Say the verse as a group a couple of times.*

**Faith Verse Fun**

**Pass the Time!**

Have you ever heard the phrase, “pass the time”? *(Group response)* For example, someone might ask you, “What do you do for fun to pass the time?” How would you answer that question? *(Allow responses.)* We’re going to literally “pass the time” while we review the Faith Verse together. I’ll start the timer. Then we’ll pass it around the circle quickly while we say the Faith Verse. When the timer goes off, whoever is caught holding it is out of the game. We’ll keep playing until we have two players left. Are you ready to pass the time? *(Group response)*

• *Keep playing until only two kids are in the game, and declare them the winners.*

• *Encourage the kids who are out to keep saying the Faith Verse with the rest of the group.*

That was a fun way to pass the time! Remember to take some time out this week to memorize the Faith Verse at home.

**Activity Page**

**Journal Response**

|  |
| --- |
| ***You Will Need***   * ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid* * *Pencils or pens, one per kid* * *Crayons or markers*   ***Getting Ready***   * *Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.* |

God wants us to take time to help others. That means we need to pay careful attention to Him and to the people around us—just like Peter and John did. God also wants us to thank Him when He takes care of us—just like the man who was healed and started praising God.

• *Hand out a copy of the* ***Small Group Activity Page,*** *a pencil, and crayons to each kid.*

This Activity Page lets you use what we’ve talked about today. Write or draw your answers to the questions.

• *Let kids color the pictures if you have time.*

**Dismissal**

When we’re following God, we need to be open and ready to be part of His plan. Let’s pray and ask God to help us welcome any interruptions He puts in our life.

**Prayer**

|  |
| --- |
| *Dear God, thank You for showing us how You sometimes surprise us and change our plans. We know Your plans are better than ours. Help us take time this week to obey You and help others. Amen.* |

**Faith Fact Recap**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide****.*



Before we leave, let’s practice our Faith Fact one more time! Can anyone remember our Faith Fact? *(Group response)* That’s right! Let’s say it all together. **I can take time for others.** Now, don’t just say it. Go out and do it this week. I can’t wait to see you next time!

• *Send home the* ***Small Group Activity Page.***

• *Remind parents that there are* ***Family Devotions*** *available on the app to do with their kid.*

• *Tell everyone the date and time for the next session.*

**Note to Leader**

|  |
| --- |
| *The next session, Volume 4 Session 2, uses more supplies than is normal. Look ahead to help you prepare.* |