



# PETER SHARES GOOD NEWS

(based on Acts 5:27–32)

**Be flexible with your vocabulary, keeping in mind that most children can understand more of what they hear than of what they read for themselves.**

**P**eter and the other disciples wanted everyone to hear the good news about Jesus. They went to the temple every day to share Jesus' story and tell about God's love. Lots of people wanted to become disciples of Jesus and learn about following in God's ways. It was a very exciting time!

One day some of the religious leaders called for Peter and the other disciples. They wanted to know why the disciples kept talking about Jesus. Peter and his friends were brought before the council to explain. As they got ready to speak, Peter thought about all the things that had happened in Jerusalem. "Oh, so much to remember!" Peter thought.

*(Distribute puzzle piece #1. Invite children to retell the story shown in the picture.)* Peter remembered the day they had come to Jerusalem for the festival of Passover. The city was very crowded. Somehow people had heard that Jesus was coming and a huge crowd gathered to welcome him. When the people saw Jesus coming they shouted with joy and spread robes and cloaks on the ground.

*(Distribute puzzle piece #2 and allow time to figure out how to connect the pieces. Invite children to retell the story shown in the second picture.)* Peter

thought about how quickly things had changed after that. Some angry people who did not like the things that Jesus had been teaching sent for soldiers to arrest Jesus. Later, Jesus was crucified on a cross and his body was taken to a garden where he was buried in a small tomb. A large rock sealed the opening. It was a terrible, terrible day for Jesus' followers. Peter paused for a moment.

*(Distribute puzzle piece #3 and allow time to figure out how to connect the pieces. Invite children to retell the story shown in the third picture.)* Then Peter continued remembering. Very early on Sunday morning after Jesus' death, several women went to the tomb. When they got there they found the stone rolled away and the tomb was empty. Jesus' body was gone! What could it mean?

Peter smiled as he remembered the next part of the story. Jesus' body hadn't just disappeared; something amazing had happened. God had raised Jesus to new life. Jesus had been dead, but now he was alive in a new way! "We had seen him with our own eyes! It was true!" Peter thought. "Jesus was alive in a new way!" *(Pause.)*

*(Distribute puzzle piece #4 and complete the puzzle. Invite children to retell the story shown in the fourth picture.)* Now Peter and friends stood in front of the council. They were not afraid. They would show the world how much they loved Jesus and wanted to carry on his work. They would tell the amazing story of how Jesus came and taught about God's love for everyone *(notice that the puzzle pieces have formed a heart shape)*. And they would tell how Jesus was crucified, and how God brought the spirit of Jesus back to life again. Nothing would stop them. They would carry on Jesus' work.