

LESSON 45

Peter & the Prophet Joel

ACTS 2:14-41



BIBLE TRUTH

THE SPIRIT-EMPOWERED GOSPEL CALL CAN CUT TO THE HEART

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Acts 2:14–37 from the Scriptures or read story 123, “Peter & the Prophet Joel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Find the Gospel?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Only a Faint Shadow

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a sheet or blind
- ✓ overhead projector (Alternatively, photocopy items in advance and bring photocopies to class.)
- ✓ items, including a small book, a glass jar half filled with sand, a writing pen, and a CD or DVD

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Peter Preaching

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 25 MIN

Study and Preach the Gospel

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Peter explains the outpouring of the Spirit—Some of the people who witnessed the outpouring of the Spirit thought those who had received the Spirit were drunk. So Peter stood up with the eleven other disciples and explained what was happening. God was pouring out his Spirit just as the prophet Joel had foreseen and Jesus had promised. In the Old Testament days, the Spirit of God occasionally fell upon an individual here or there. But Joel prophesied a day when God would pour out his Spirit upon “all flesh” (Acts 2:17). This meant the Spirit of God would fall on the prophet and the lay person, the young and the old, men and women, and people from every nation.

Peter shares the gospel—Peter shared the life-changing message of the gospel. Jesus said the Spirit would clothe the disciples with “power from on high” (Luke 24:49). The Spirit’s power was evident in Peter’s life as he turned from his fears and was filled with boldness to share. Accusing his hearers of nailing Jesus to the cross could have stirred up trouble. But Peter’s message was more than a correction. He wanted the people to see that the crucifixion of Jesus was all part of God’s predetermined plan of salvation (Acts 2:23).

Peter connects the Scriptures to Christ—To help those gathered understand how Jesus’ death was all a part of God’s plan, Peter explained how King David foresaw and prophesied about the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:29–31). He indicated that David looked forward to Jesus. Peter testified to witnessing the resurrected Christ (Act 2:32) in keeping with what Jesus told them in Luke 24:48. Peter ended with a resounding call to all of Israel to believe. The people were so affected that Luke says they were “cut to the heart” and asked what they should do!

A true sign of repentance in a person is when they realize they are guilty, give no excuses, make no argument, and simply say, “What should I do?”

A LITTLE BIT MORE

The Prophet Joel

Joel is somewhat of a mystery prophet. He is only mentioned in his Old Testament book and once here in Acts 2, by Peter. Joel's book contains no dates or references to known kings, rulers, or other historical figures or events. Other men with the same name in the other books of the Bible don't seem to fit the description. Joel does speak of Israel and Jerusalem in his writings. Commentators looking to place him on the timeline of Israel believe he lived somewhere between the sixth and ninth centuries B.C.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Immediately following the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost, Peter addressed the crowd. Emboldened by the Holy Spirit's power, Peter interpreted the prophets and connected their prophecies to the outpouring of the Spirit and the gospel message. He said Jesus was "delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23). He further explained that the Jews put him to death, but that God raised him from the dead. The gospel became the core of Peter's life message.

In 1 Peter 1:10–12, Peter gives a wonderful glimpse back into the mind of the prophets. What exactly did they know? He tells us they searched with the greatest care because they knew the words they spoke were not for them, but for all those who would come after them. Moses knew. David knew. Joel knew that God had a glorious plan of salvation. They searched intently to know more.

With the coming of Christ, the secrets of the kingdom of God were revealed. Just as Peter did in his first sermon at Pentecost, we, in turn, reveal these secrets to others when we speak the gospel message. This mystery, revealed to us, is a message even the angels longed to know.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Acts 2:14–37 from the Scriptures or read story 123, “Peter & the Prophet Joel,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Find the Gospel?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Have the children read through Peter's sermon (Acts 2:14–37) verse by verse and write down each verse number in which they find a portion of the gospel message. (Jesus' ministry [Acts 2:22], Jesus' crucifixion at the hands of God and man [v. 23], and Jesus' resurrection [v. 24]) Have them also write down key words they find that are important to the gospel. Go around the room as they work and help the children pick out the gospel. When they have finished, ask them what they found. Write each reference to the gospel on the board, along with the key words. Then ask the children the following questions:

- **How much did Peter use the gospel in his message?**
(He used it a whole lot.)
- **Why did he share the gospel so much?**
(The gospel, the Bible tells us, is the power of God for salvation [Romans 1:16]. Peter could have shared a lot of information, but it was the gospel that could change the hearts of the people.)
- **Does the gospel have the same power today?**
(Yes. The gospel is still transforming millions of people every year.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN**Only a Faint Shadow****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a sheet or blind
- ✓ overhead projector (Alternatively, photocopy items in advance and bring photocopies to class.)
- ✓ items, including a small book, a glass jar half filled with sand, a writing pen, and a CD or DVD

The object of this lesson is to help the children understand that the prophets could see God's salvation in the future, but didn't get the whole picture. We have the full picture.

Set up the overhead projector where everyone can clearly see the image it projects. Set the blind up to block their view of what is being placed on the projector. Set the focus of the projector so the projected image is fuzzy, but still visible.

Place each of the following objects on the projector and ask the class to identify them. Then ask them the more specific question that follows, the answer to which they can only guess:

1. Small book: What is the title of the book?
2. Glass jar: What is in the jar?
3. Writing pen: What color does the pen write?
4. CD or DVD: What is recorded on it?

Review their guesses by passing the objects around the room one at a time. Ask them how much different it is to actually see the object.

Read aloud 1 Peter 1:10–12 and ask them to explain what this exercise has to do with the prophets.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Peter Preaching

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Draw a picture of Peter standing up and addressing the crowd. Talk about how different Peter is in this story from how he was in Matthew 26:69–75.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 25 MIN

Study and Preach the Gospel

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bibles for the class

Divide the class into teams of five. Have each team study the gospel presentation of Peter (Acts 2:14–37) and then create a skit in which one person shares the gospel with the other four. A couple of team members should raise objections to or ask questions of the evangelizer.

Use this to help your students grow in their ability to share the gospel. Have the class critique each performance to share how they feel the presenting group did and how they might improve.

Caution the class against getting silly, overly argumentative, or dramatic. This should be an opportunity to practice sharing the gospel, not to win an acting award.