

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

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Witnesses Can Prove It

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bag of candy
- ✓ a conspirator (arranged ahead of time)

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 45—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Cut to the Heart

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ adult helper to join you in the skit
- ✓ Bible

TOTAL 75 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?”

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**

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Go through Peter’s sermon (Acts 2:14–36) verse by verse and help the children identify aspects of the gospel. Write each reference to the gospel on the board. 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 **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

Witnesses Can Prove It

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bag of candy
- ✓ a conspirator (arranged ahead of time)

Use this exercise to show how witnesses prove that something happened.

After the children have arrived and you have placed the bag of candy in a conspicuous place, step out of the room for a minute. While you are out, your conspirator should come in and suspiciously take the bag of candy. When you return to find the candy gone, ask the class where it went. Don’t accuse them, but make sure you get at least two or three witnesses to name your

conspirator. Excuse yourself a second time and bring back the accused. He should have the candy with him, but hidden.

He should, at first, deny taking it. Then parade at least three witnesses in front of him to testify to the truth. At that point he should confess and give the candy back. He should apologize to the class and then excuse himself.

Talk about the power of a witness in finding out the truth and about how the apostles were God's witnesses to Jesus' resurrection (Acts 2:32). Ask the class to explain why the apostles, as witnesses, played an important role in spreading the gospel.

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**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 45—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What is happening in the picture?**
(Peter is explaining what is happening to the crowd that gathered the day the Holy Spirit came to the disciples.)
- **What was the name of the prophet Peter told the people about?**
(Peter quoted the prophet Joel who he said wrote about the outpouring of the Spirit of God hundreds of years before it happened.)
- **Who did the prophet Joel say God would pour out his Spirit onto?**
(Joel 2:28 says God would pour out his Spirit on all people: sons, daughters, young men, and old men.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Cut to the Heart

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ adult helper to join you in the skit

After you are about two-thirds through your teaching, have an adult helper come into the room, interrupt your teaching, and ask you if you have a large knife they can use for their lesson. You should ask them what the knife is for. They will answer, "for cutting to the heart." Play this up a bit between you and your visitor. He should even look for a Bible to read to you Acts 2:37.

You should then have him turn to Hebrews 4:12 and have him read it. Instead of noticing that it is the Word of God that does the cutting and piercing, he should get confused and apologize, saying that he didn't realize he needed a "two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12) rather than a knife. But before you can correct him he should turn to leave, saying it will probably take a long time to find the two-edged sword.

Stop him from leaving and explain to him and to the class that the Word of God is the sword. Then give him a Bible and say, "Here is your sword." He should question how he is going to cut anyone to the heart with a book. Then ask the class if they can help explain how the Bible can cut to the heart. Help them to articulate their answer to the guest.

