

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 ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION ..... 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY ..... 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 123)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION ..... 5 MIN

**Where Is the Gospel?**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS ..... 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY ..... 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) . . . . 20–30 MIN

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:** coloring page for NT Lesson 45—one for each child; markers or crayons

**Play the Role of Peter**

**SUPPLIES:** adult volunteer to act the role of Peter; costume for Peter (This could be a simple sheet and rope for a belt along with open sandals.)

**Define the Gospel**

**SUPPLIES:** make three cards as visual cues: one card shows a cross, another card shows an empty tomb, and a third card show a broken (sinful) heart; puppet

7. CLOSING PRAYER ..... 5 MIN

**TOTAL 60–75 MIN**

## THE LESSON

## OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION ..... 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn what happened when Peter preached the gospel.

Show the children the picture from "Peter Denies Jesus" (story 114), from the *Gospel Story Bible* and ask the children:

- **Can anyone remember when Peter didn't tell the truth and the rooster crowed?**  
(Help the children remember and repeat the details of the story.)
- **Remind them there was something Peter did three times just before the rooster crowed. What was it?**  
(Peter denied knowing Jesus.)

Tell the children that you want them to pretend to be fearful Peter. Have them all stand up and pretend they are afraid by spreading their fingers, shaking their hands, and making a fearful expression.

Now, tell them that you are going to pretend to be the servant girl who asked Peter if he was one of Jesus' disciples. Explain that as soon as you ask, you want them to shake with fear, and say "No, I don't know him."

Do this several times until they are able to repeat the words when you ask the question. Then have the class sit down and tell them that when Jesus was arrested Peter was afraid and lied about knowing Jesus. But, after the Holy Spirit fell on Peter at Pentecost something amazing happened to him. When we read today's story, I want you to listen real close to see what Peter does differently this time.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

## BIBLE STORY ..... 10 MIN

Read story 1, "God Creates the World," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION** ..... **5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

■ **Who is Peter speaking to?**

*(Peter is speaking to two main groups of people—those who live in Jerusalem and visitors from outside Jerusalem. He addresses the people from Jerusalem this way: “You crucified and killed.” In other words, people were present who would have shouted for Jesus to be crucified.)*

■ **Was Peter always so brave?**

*(No, only recently Peter had been so afraid that he had denied Jesus three times.)*

■ **Where did Peter get his courage?**

*(In Acts 1:8, Jesus told the disciples to wait and they would receive power from the Holy Spirit. Peter’s courage came from being filled with the Spirit of God.)*

## 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.

**SNACK QUESTIONS** ..... **10 MIN**

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

- **Who is the Holy Spirit?**  
*(The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. The Holy Spirit is God. Sometimes he is called the Spirit of Christ [Romans 8:9].)*
  
- **Who has the Holy Spirit living in them?**  
*(When God touches a man or woman's heart and they are born again, he fills them with his Spirit. In the Old Testament, God lived in the tabernacle or the temple. But, now that Jesus has come and paid the penalty for our sins, the Holy Spirit can live in all those whose sins have been taken away.)*
  
- **How did the people respond to Peter's message?**  
*(Acts 2:37 says they were cut to the heart and asked what they should do. Peter, in turn, gave them specific instructions to repent of [turn away from] their sin and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Luke records in the book of Acts that about three thousand people believed and were added to the church.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** ..... **5-10 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.

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS** ..... **20-30 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**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 going on 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.)*

### Play the Role of Peter

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ costume for Peter (a simple sheet and rope for a belt along with open sandals)
- ✓ adult volunteer to act the role of Peter

Have an adult read this passage dressed up like Peter with another teacher acting as the narrator. The one playing Peter should passionately address the children just as Peter would have done.

For realism, challenge the actor in advance to memorize at least the essence of the speech. This will capture the attention of the children. Ask the children if they can tell you which part of Peter's sermon was the gospel.

### Define the Gospel

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ three cards: the first with the picture of a cross, the second with the picture of an empty tomb, and the third with a picture of a broken (sinful) heart
- ✓ puppet

Have the children see if they can tell you the main components of the gospel and our response as told by Peter.

- (1) Jesus was killed (hold up the card with the picture of the cross).
- (2) God raised Jesus from the dead (hold up the card with the picture of the empty tomb).
- (3) We can be forgiven of our sins if we believe and trust in Jesus and turn away from our sins (hold up the card with the picture of the broken heart).

If you repeat the components of the gospel as you show the children the cards you will help them memorize them. Remember, we want them to know the gospel.

This activity can be done with a puppet. Have the puppet sit with the children and shout out crazy answers like “Valentines Day” for the heart and “part of a barn door” for the cross. In correcting the puppet, you can offer clues to help the children guess the correct components of the gospel.

Finally, have the puppet challenge you to find the gospel in the story that you read. Ask the children to help you in answering the puppet. You can reread the story having the children raise their hands when you come to a part that has one of your three components in it. Change the inflection of your voice to give them clues.

**CLOSING PRAYER** ..... **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

