



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 45

## PETER AND THE PROPHET JOEL

*The Spirit - empowered gospel call goes forth.*



**MONDAY**

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### **THE STORY: ACTS 2:14-21**

Peter explains the outpouring of the Spirit. Some of the people who witnessed the outpouring of the Spirit thought those who received the Spirit and were speaking in other tongues 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. Peter did not want to simply correct their poor judgment. He wanted them to be saved. That's why he went on to share the gospel.

In the days of old, God only spoke through a few choice men, and God's Spirit would not be poured on all God's people. This new outpouring, however, would be for all kinds of people, and God would speak through men and women, young and old.

From this very first sermon we can see the Spirit at work in the life of Peter. No sermon would be given without pointing back to Jesus.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

What does Joel's prophecy say about the outpouring of the Spirit? (It says that all God's people can be filled and that God will speak through young and old alike.)

How is Peter different here than in the courtyard during Jesus' trial? (The Holy Spirit has filled Peter with boldness, courage, and power to preach to the people. Peter is no longer thinking of himself and is not afraid to proclaim the gospel to the crowd.)

**PRAY:**

Thank Jesus for the outpouring of His Spirit. Ask God to change the heart of every member of your family and pour out the Spirit upon each of you so that you will have boldness to share the gospel just like Peter did.



**TUESDAY**

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**THE STORY: ACTS 2:22-28**

Peter shares the gospel. After Peter explained the outpouring of the Spirit, he connected it to the gospel. His courage is evident as he accused his hearers of nailing Jesus to the cross. That could have stirred up trouble. Peter also connected these events to the sovereign plan of God. Jesus was handed over as a part of God's predetermined plan. Peter shows them how King David foresaw the resurrection of Jesus.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

According to Peter, what proves that Jesus was from God? (Miracles, wonders, and signs.)

What does it mean when it says Jesus was handed over by "God's set purpose and foreknowledge"? (God was not surprised by Jesus' crucifixion. Even Jesus chastised Peter when he cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest's. He could have called down legions of angels, but that was not the plan. God planned that His Son would be handed over to die for our sins.)

**PRAY:**

Thank God for His wonderful plan of salvation through Jesus.



## WEDNESDAY WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

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### **THE STORY: 1 PETER 1:10-12**

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. Jesus, he said, "was handed over to the Jews by God's set purpose and foreknowledge." He further explained that the Jews put Him to death, but that God raised Him from the dead. The gospel, delivered at Pentecost, became the core of Peter's life message.

In his subsequent letter, Peter gives us a wonderful glimpse back into the mind of the prophets (see 1 Peter 1:10). 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. And 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 by Him and through Him. We reveal them to others just as Peter did in his first sermon at Pentecost: through the gospel message. This mystery, revealed to us, is a message even the angels longed to know.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why are we so privileged to know the gospel? (Many of those who believed in the Old Testament did not understand the whole gospel. They were placing their faith in God to save them, but they only saw a shadow of the full reality. We have been given the clear gospel message.)

Where do you see the gospel in Peter's sermon? (Parents, walk your children through Peter's sermon and help them pick out the gospel.)

**PRAY:**

Thank the Lord for the gospel, which we have been given without riddle or mystery.



**THURSDAY**

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**THE STORY: ACTS 2:29-37**

Peter connects the scriptures to Christ. Peter, having shared the gospel once, continued his explanation of the prophets and how David looked forward to Jesus. And then Peter shared the gospel again! When he spoke of the Resurrection, he calls it a fact. There would be no room for doubters. Peter ends 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?”

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What does it mean to be “cut to the heart”? (Hebrews 4:12 gives us the answer: “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” The people’s thoughts and attitudes were judged by Peter’s words, and they wanted to repent for killing Jesus and not believing.)

Should our response to the gospel be the same? (Yes. We need to repent of our sins against Jesus and believe.)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help every member of your family see the need for the gospel, repent from sin, and believe in Jesus.



**FRIDAY**  
**ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

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**THE STORY: ISAIAH 49:7,8**

Jesus is the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel. He was despised and abhorred by the rulers and people of Israel who mocked, beat, and crucified Him. Jesus rose from the dead. One day all kings will bow their knees to Him.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Who is the Redeemer referenced in this passage? (Jesus is the ultimate Redeemer. Only Jesus, by His death on the cross, can redeem us.)

How was Jesus faithful? (Jesus did everything the Father asked of Him. The Bible tells us that Jesus is a faithful high priest [see Hebrews 2:17], a faithful Son [see Hebrews 3:6], and His name is called Faithful and True [see Revelation 19:11].)

**PRAY:**

Thank Jesus for being our faithful Redeemer, who set us free from the bondage of sin and the wrath of God.