

PETER AND THE PROPHET JOEL

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 2:14-41



The STORY

Read about Peter's first sermon in Acts 2:14-41. Though this is a more lengthy passage of scripture, it is rich with the Gospel. Take your time and read it in faith that God can use it to further the Gospel in the lives of the children in your room.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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 from Jerusalem and those beyond. He addresses the men from Jerusalem this way, "you crucified and killed." In other words, men were present who would have been present shouting "crucify Him.")
- Was Peter always so bold? (No, Peter was afraid just days before and 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.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Peter addressing the amazed crowd. Engage the children by asking:

- Who did Peter talk about to explain what was happening? (Peter quoted the prophet Joel who he said wrote about the outpouring of the Spirit of God hundreds of years before it happened.)
- Onto whom did the prophet Joel say God would pour out His Spirit? (Joel 2:28 says God would pour out His Spirit on all people: sons, daughters, young men and old men.)
- Does God still pour out His Spirit today? (Yes, God fills all believers with the Holy Spirit and then encourages them to seek the gifts of the Spirit and a continual experience of the Holy Spirit.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- 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, see Romans 8:9.)
- Who has the Holy Spirit living in them? (When God touches a man or woman's heart and makes them 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 tells us they were cut to the heart and asked what they should do. Peter, in turn, gave them specific instructions to repent or 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 believed and were added to the church.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

The Gospel is the core of Peter's sermon. Some of the highlights are that Jesus was delivered to die according to the definite plan of God and was crucified (vs. 23). God raised Him from the dead, loosing the pangs of death (vs. 24). This raising of Jesus was a resurrection back to life (vs. 32). The call to repentance (v. 38) and faith is required for the forgiveness of sins.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

