



UNIT 30 | SESSION 1

PETER PREACHED IN JERUSALEM

ACTS 2

CHRIST CONNECTION

God used Peter to tell others about Jesus. Everyone who believes in Jesus is changed forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why does God want Christians to tell others about Jesus? We tell others about Jesus so they can know Him and love Him.

MEMORY VERSE

Tell others about Jesus. Romans 10:14

PREPARE



Take time to reflect on today's lesson

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The latter portions of Acts 2 relay the Holy Spirit's transformational work within not only the apostle Peter's life but also in the lives of thousands of new believers in Jerusalem. In what could have been a somber retelling of herd mentality gone wrong, we instead read of Peter's life transformation on display as he followed the leading of Christ's promised Helper, the Holy Spirit.

What evidence do we see of genuine transformation in Peter's life? How is the Holy Spirit's power made evident by the legacy of the Acts 2 church?

The apostle Peter's life was one of Scripture's greatest examples of discipleship. Though he had personally journeyed for three years alongside the Savior, Peter struggled with fear, hesitancy, and uncertainty. He was the man who sank from doubt while walking on water and denied Jesus' lordship not once but three times. However, the Peter we find in Acts 2 seems to have overcome these stumbling blocks to his faith. But how? It was through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in his life, enabling and encouraging him to do the Lord's will.

The miracle of discipleship did not end with Peter simply learning from Jesus and being filled with His Spirit, only to then retreat and retire from his personal spiritual journey. Instead, he proclaimed the truth of the gospel's good news for mankind and brought many new believers into the fold as well.

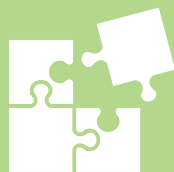
We read of Peter's call to repentance for all those gathered in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, but how can we know that these hearers truly experienced life transformation by the Spirit? The proof was in their legacy as a church, through the lifestyles they took on upon coming to the faith: devotion to the Scriptures, fellowship with one another, enjoying meals together, and prayer.

As you teach children this week, remember the role you play as a proclaimer of Christ's truths to the next generation, taking part in His mission so that your pupils may follow suit. As you lead a life of faithfulness and fruitfulness, they will see and experience the power of the Holy Spirit at work in your life.

TERMS TO KNOW

Preaching the Bible: human presentation through the Holy Spirit's power of God's acts of salvation through Jesus Christ

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with other children.

ACTIVITY 1: HOW MANY FIT?

Tape several assorted-size squares on the floor. Invite children to stand in the smallest square and count aloud how many friends fit without crossing the tape lines.

Repeat with the rest of the squares, working up in size to the largest. Comment about the number, whether it is big or small, a lot of people or a few, and so forth.

CONNECT THE DOTS



What was the largest number of friends that fit in our squares? Wow! That is a lot! Now, let's think about Peter. How many people were forever changed by what Peter had to say? Yes! Three thousand people! God used Peter that day to tell others about Jesus. They believed and were forever changed!

CONNECT THE DOTS



You stacked the blocks in the shape of the name JESUS. Jesus taught people about God. He did miracles and made sick people well. He died on a cross, but now Jesus is alive and with His Father, God, in heaven. Today, we're learning that Peter preached to many people about Jesus and told them how to become followers of Jesus.

ACTIVITY 2: JESUS WITH BLOCKS

Write the letters **J**, **E**, **S**, **U**, and **S** in large letters on individual sheets of copy paper.

Arrange the paper on the floor near the blocks to spell the name **JESUS**. Identify the letters and read Jesus' name.

Lead children to set blocks upright along the printed letters.

CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story

CONNECT THE DOTS



When I say the word “church,” do you think of the building, or your classmates and friends here? Church isn’t just the building; it’s about the Jesus followers who attend each week, serve and help, play instruments, etc. Church is about the people who love and follow Jesus, inside and outside the building!

CRAFT: CHURCH IS PEOPLE

Supplies: church outline, pictures of people, glue sticks, memory verse labels

The church is made up of all kinds of people!

Cut out the provided pictures and glue them inside the church outline. Then, stick the memory verse label on the paper.

Review the Bible story with children and remind them how the disciples went out and started teaching about Jesus.





PREPARE

Open your Bible to **Acts 2** and tell the following story.

PETER PREACHED IN JERUSALEM

God had sent the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples, and the disciples spoke in other languages. People began to gather around them to see what was going on. They heard what the disciples were saying, but they did not understand what was happening.

Peter stood up to talk to the crowd. "You saw the miracles Jesus did," he said. "God planned for Jesus to die. Then God raised Jesus from the dead! Now, Jesus is sitting beside God in heaven, and He sent the Holy Spirit to us."

Then Peter said, "Jesus is the Lord and Messiah! You killed Him on a cross!"

The people knew Peter was telling the truth. "What should we do?" they asked.

"Turn away from your sins and be baptized," Peter said. "God will forgive your sins, and you will get the Holy Spirit, too."

That day, about three thousand people turned away from their sins and were baptized. They all believed and became followers of Jesus. They met together, ate together, and prayed together. They shared what they had and praised God. Every day, more and more people were saved.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God used Peter to tell others about Jesus. Everyone who believes in Jesus is changed forever.

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning

SNACK TIME

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. How many people became followers of Jesus after Peter preached to them?
4. Why does God want Christians to tell others about Jesus? We tell others about Jesus so they can know Him and love Him.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return storage cubes to Room 108

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!