**1. Motivate**

When has it been difficult for you to admit you’ve made a mistake?

* when I broke a decorative dish

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_6jj8kz98> If you have no
Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/4h5kv2wm>

* when we took the wrong turn on a trip
* when I forgot an important appointment
* threw an intercepted pass
* when it was not clear who was really at fault
* missed an easy putt
* when the family was disappointed
* when I handled something poorly with one of the children

**2. Transition**

God speaks to us through different means to bring us to confession and repentance.

* The voice of God seeks to convict (convince) us of His Truth.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Crucified and Resurrected

Listen for praise for Jesus.

Acts 2:32-36 (NIV) God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."' 36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Peter gave an eyewitness testimony.

* God resurrected Jesus from the dead.
* Many people saw this personally.

Why is it important that many people in the early church were *personal witnesses* to Jesus’ resurrection?

* otherwise could have just been a rumor that was spread
* like propaganda today … say it often enough to many people and it becomes “reality” even though it is false
* the *fact* that people saw and interacted with Jesus *does* make it a reality, marks it as *Truth* (with a capital *T*)
* shows us that we *can* believe it

What words and phrases express the imagery of the exaltation of Jesus?

* He is now “seated” at the “right hand” of God the Father
* place of honor
* place of power

Peter offers scriptural support for his claim that Jesus had been ascended and exalted as Lord and Christ. "*The Lord said to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand* …’” Note the meaning of this psalm.

* God the Father says to God the Son, “Sit at my right hand”
* Jesus was a descendant of David
* So David is expressing his worship of “*my* *Lord*”, the Messiah

What are the personal implications of recognizing Jesus as Lord?

* He has the right to tell us what to do
* He can expect our obedience
* He deserves our obedience
* He wants to be the “boss” in our lives
* we can trust Him to direct us wisely

What can cause people to struggle with the certainty that Jesus is Lord?

* they want to run their own lives
* they have other things in their lives that are more important to them than God
* we might not have wood, stone, or metal idol images in our culture, but we do have things in our lives that take the place of God
* sports, relationships, cars, hobbies, desire for power, money, etc. can be idols

What do we learn from this passage about the Holy Spirit?

* sent by God the Father
* promised by Jesus
* now “poured out” buy Jesus

It was the Holy Spirit who accomplished the miracles they had recently seen and heard (from the first verses of chapter 2).

* Sound of a mighty wind
* Tongues of fire above their heads
* People speaking in different languages (not their own)

God’s Holy Spirit indwells believers … both then and now



3.2 Respond to Christ

Listen for the response of Peter’s audience.

Acts 2:37-38 (NIV) When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

What effect did Peter’s preaching have on the people?

* they were “cut to the heart”, their hearts were “pierced” (check various Bible versions)
* they were deeply convicted, totally convinced of what Peter was preaching
* they wanted to know what their response should be



What actions did Peter tell them to take?

* repent of your sin (of unbelief)
* demonstrate your conversion by baptized
* experience God’s forgiveness of their sins
* receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
* experience His presence and Lordship within your life

What does it mean to repent?

* change the direction of your life
* turn away from sin
* turn to God to follow and submit to Him
* be so sorry for your sin that you are willing to quit
* not only are we declared righteous, but we are also meant to act and live righteously

Describe the differences between *condemnation* and *conviction*.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Condemnation | Conviction |
| * tells what you have done wrong
* declare you are a bad person
* implies you cannot become a good person
* cause a feeling of worthlessness
* can paralyze you from realizing God’s love, God’s plan for you
* leave you feeling powerless, immobilized
 | * convince you of your *sinful condition*
* brings awareness of specific sins, attitudes, habits that need to be changed
* encourages you to turn *from* sin, turn *to* Christ
* convince you of Christ’s forgiveness
* convince you to do something about it (to receive that forgiveness)
* motivates you to change
 |

As we share the gospel, how can we work toward the goal of conviction rather than condemnation?

* focus on what Jesus has done,
* focus on forgiveness available
* emphasize Jesus’ love

3.3 Conviction Leads to Obedience

Listen for the response to Peter’s call.

Acts 2:39-41 (NIV) The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Unto whom is the promise of forgiveness given?

* to those hearing Peter’s message at that time
* to their descendants
* to those “far off” – that is to the Gentiles!
* ultimately to us, today
* to all whom God will call

Note *Peter’s* role in this situation …

* Willing to stand up and communicate the Truth of the Gospel message
* Answer people’s questions
* Direct them how to respond to the salvation message

Now note the different roles the *Holy Spirit* played in this situation ..

* The Holy Spirit directed Peter in what to say, how to say it
* The Holy Spirit was convicting them, *convincing* them
* Recall John 16:8 *When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:*
* That’s how they were “cut to the heart”
* Then He came into their lives as God’s gift

When you share the Gospel message with someone, how does this take pressure off you?

* the Holy Spirit living within me will empower me to remember what to say
* it is the Holy Spirit’s task to take those words and do the convincing/convicting
* it is not by a clever argument
* it is only my responsibility to do the communicating

Even though the responsibility to do the convincing belongs to God’s Holy Spirit, what responsibility is still ours?

* to go to people – recall the great commission
* to confront them with the Truth of the Gospel

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

* to prepare a meaningful Gospel presentation
* to support the sending of missionaries who take the message to places where we are unable to go

Application

Receive Christ.

* If you have never repented of your sin and placed your faith in Christ, do so now.
* Make an appointment with a pastor or Christian friend and settle this crucial matter.
* Check out the inside front cover of your Personal Study Guide

Confess sin.

* The convicting work of the Holy Spirit is not limited to your need for salvation.
* After salvation, we still sin.
* What has the Holy Spirit been convicting you of?
* Consider what sins the Holy Spirit is pinpointing in your life that He wants to cleanse and forgive.
* Respond to everything God points out to you. Don’t be satisfied until you have been set free from every sin.

Share Christ.

* Even as the Holy Spirit worked through Peter, He wants to work through you.
* Pray for opportunities to be used by Him to speak His truth into the lives of others.
* When that opportunity arises, trust God to work through you to reveal His salvation.



Double Puzzle

Then use the numbers to find the letters in the message. Watch out for punctuation marks. Help and other Fun Family Activities at <https://tinyurl.com/4h5kv2wm>

To solve the puzzle, you must unscramble the clue words on the left. Remember they are all words from the Bible Study passage.

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