



In the Beginning was the Word

11th Confirmation Class Lesson

Supplies Needed: Notebooks; Handout

OPENING ACTIVITY: Mad Gab

Say the words on the left column fast or slow until the listeners can guess the phrase.

Note: You can do this activity one of two ways:

1. You say the phrases and the group works together to guess them or
2. You split the class into two teams and have them compete against each other Family Feud-style. Each team would have a team-leader. You read a phrase to one team, and the team shares with their leader what they think the phrase is. The team-leader, though, is the only one who can give the answer and has only one chance to get it right. Give them 90 seconds to figure it out. If they can't or don't answer correctly, then the other team gets 20 seconds (team leader gives the one and only answer) to answer correctly. Then, no matter what happens in that round, it's onto the next round with the other team going first. If the first team answers correctly, they get 2 points, if the second team "steals" the answer, then they get 1 point.

DO MAD GAB ACTIVITY

MAD GAB PHRASES & ANSWERS

Thick Hard Enough Heed Hen	_____	The Garden of Eden
Thinking Dumb Off Cod	_____	The Kingdom Of God
Ace Spear Hit Tough Pow Her	_____	A Spirit Of Power
Sigh Men Pea Tore	_____	Simon Peter
Sack Eye Yes Tacks Call Hector	_____	Zacchaeus Tax Collector
Cheese Us His Broth Heirs	_____	Jesus' Brothers
Hee-Haws Resin	_____	He has risen!
Fork If Fuss Czar Since	_____	Forgive Us Our Sins
And Rue	_____	Andrew
Lowered Sprayer	_____	lord's prayer

Hole Ease Peer Rat	_____	Holy Spirit
Vast Ted Damp Raid	_____	Fasted And Prayed
Thick Ross	_____	The cross
Cheese Us Swept	_____	Jesus Wept
Annul Lab Pastor Char	_____	An Alabaster Jar
Humus Beep Horn Egg In	_____	You Must Be Born Again
Eye Tuba Leaf	_____	I Do Believe
Hee He Hulled Hem	_____	He Healed Them
Dell Hoards Some Eye Ship Heard	_____	The Lord Is My Shepherd
Cod Bull Lest Thumb	_____	God Blessed Them
My Teak Odd	_____	Mighty God
Hour Day Leap Red	_____	Our Daily Bread
Know Ozark	_____	Noah's Ark
Hum Hey Singer Ace	_____	Amazing Grace
Dune Hot Be I Frayed	_____	Do Not Be Afraid
They'll Low Herds Upper	_____	The Lord's Supper
Just regular phrases:		
Broth Errands Hissed Her	_____	brothers and sisters
Jog Clay Die Scream	_____	Chocolate Ice Cream
Why Sky	_____	Wise Guy
Hog Heap Huck	_____	Hockey Puck
Eggs Truck Itch Up	_____	Extra ketchup

They Bees Ease	_____	ABC's
Sigh Lens	_____	Silence!
Isle Of View	_____	I love you
Whole League How	_____	Holy cow
Eyes Wear Hit	_____	I Swear It
End Debt 'Twas O	_____	And It Was So
Dew Has Use Hay	_____	Do As You Say
Ace Shore Found Asian	_____	A Sure Foundation

ASK/TELL

- This game mirrors what sometimes happens in real life, right?
- Have you ever heard someone say something that you misunderstood and then when you say what you thought they said, they just look at you funny and then they say, "No...what I said was...?"
- (A quick example, a pastor during worship started a prayer with "Dearest God." After the worship service, a member came up to the pastor and asked, "Why did you start today's prayer with 'Dear Scott?' ").
- But misunderstanding people isn't always funny.
- Can you think of some situations where mis-hearing someone can have unwanted results? (during surgery; when driving; when setting up a time and place to meet someone, etc)
- Listening plays a part in paying attention to Jesus and we're going to do that today by looking at two scriptures: One about God and one about Jesus.
- But first, let's pray and then review

OPENING PRAYER

REVIEW Challenge of the Week: How did sitting down with your mentor and studying a Bible story go?

REVIEW Previous few lessons

- Terms/Concepts we've talked about recently in class:
 - Sin – Means to miss the mark or destination (meaning God - originally used as an archery term)
 - Repent – Means to "turn around." So when you sin/miss the mark, once you recognize/name that missing, then the next thing one would do if they chose to do so, would be to turn around, to do a "U-turn" or "recalculate" one's direction (like the GPS in the car tells you to do).
 - The word "devil" parallels the Greek word diabolis, which means "divider." It is often used in scripture interchangeably with "Satan." Satan means "adversary."

- The word “temptation” is interchangeable in scripture with the word “test.” A helpful way to think of temptation is to think of it as motivation(s) that makes the choice to not choose God seem attractive.
- Transfiguration – when we follow Jesus, we see the divide removed between the “every day” and the divine. All *heaven* breaks loose.

READ Genesis 1:1-5

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a breath/spirit/wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

John 1.1-4, 10-13

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

ASK about Genesis passage

- In the Genesis passage, do you notice any of the concepts we’ve been talking about in class? (it’s a little obscure, but we talked about it in the “Jesus walks on Water story...” The waters = chaos, and God sweeps over it, just like Jesus walking on water)
- In the Genesis passage, what tool does it appear God is using to create with? (language – “God said”).
- In the Genesis passage, God’s Word creates what? (Light.)
- And what does light allow for? (to see – Like the Transfiguration. In this case, light allows for the rest of creation to happen/be seen).

TELL

- In summary, then: God forms the chaos with the Word (by speaking) and the Word creates light which allows for seeing.
- Even though this is a well-known statement that we even make jokes about sometimes, like when flipping a light switch, we might say, “And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ “ this statement reveals the tool God uses to create with: The Word. Speech. Language.
- God’s speech, God’s language, God’s word creates.
- On a more subtle level, we’ve seen this same idea at work in the Jesus stories. Bartimaeus sees again, the Gerasthene man is restored to normal and the boy with epileptic fits is healed all by conversing with Jesus. And in the Transfiguration story, Jesus lights up when he’s in conversation (in prayer) with God.

ASK about John passage

- In the John passage, what do you think about the Word being a person? What do you think that would that look like? (the best example we have is of Jesus being God's Word and that's what John's getting at here)
- In the John passage, in verse four, what does the Word bring? (life and light).
- From the stories that we've read so far, does Jesus bring life and light to the world? (Yes)
- In the John passage, in verse 10 & thinking about Mad Gab, why might the world not know/recognize Jesus? (gets mis-heard, often because of perspective/location)
- In the John passage, in verse 12 & 13, who can become children of God? (those who received Jesus and believed in him [which means "follows him/does as he did"] are then born of God)

SNACK

TELL

- The word, "Christ" simply means "anointed." It is not Jesus' last name.
- The Israelites had a tradition of anointing their kings as a way to signify to the people and the king that the king was ready to lead.
- The origin of anointing for the Israelites comes from a practice by any shepherd who actually cared about his flock of sheep. Lice and other insects would often get into the wool of sheep, and when they got near the sheep's head, they would burrow into the sheep's ears and kill the sheep. So, ancient shepherds poured oil on the sheep's head. This made the sheep's wool slippery, making it impossible for insects to get near the sheep's ears because when they did, they would just slide off.
- **So literally: To anoint a person is, for the Israelites, a symbol of the anointed person's ears being protected from harmful things (like words that make life without God seem attractive)...**
- If we think back to the idea of the voice of the devil/temptation that makes the choice of *not* choosing God seem attractive, then we can see how the concept of being anointed offers a powerful symbol for the Israelite people: As a people who were formed and created to be God's light, having a leader whose hearing is "protected" from the devil/temptation would be very attractive to them.
- This might for you, give more meaning to the imagery of Jesus saying he is the Good Shepherd. Here is that scripture:

John 10:11-16

11 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

TELL (the Good News)

- In the passage we just read, Jesus calls himself the good shepherd. What did we say before the scripture that is one thing a good shepherd does?

- That's right, anoints the ears of the sheep.
- So, when we choose to follow Jesus, what we learn is how to hear God like Jesus hears God. As our hearing improves, then our seeing improves – we start to see things we didn't see before on our own. As we follow Jesus, we are being anointed.
- Then, what we share with others is what Jesus shared with us: How to listen which leads to us shining God's light and speaking God's word.
- As we can hear and see more of what God is telling/showing us, then this is what it means to be and act as children of God.

CHALLENGE of the Week: Choose a song – any song – and listen very closely to the lyrics. Write down what you think you hear. Did the careful listening change how you thought of the song?

If there's time: Discuss upcoming events and schedule if need be...

CLOSING PRAYER – ask for prayer requests and give time during prayer for students to pray.