



S2.Lesson 15: God & Our Attention – Transfiguration

Middle School Lesson Plans

Supplies Needed: Journals; Handout; This lesson will find you electrocuting a pickle. It'll look something like this (but maybe without the Jim Cramer bobble-head):

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Electrocution-Of-A-Pickle-Starring-Jim-Cramer/>

DETAILS ABOUT HOW TO PREPARE ARE AT THE END OF THIS LESSON (Pages 4 & 5).

OPENING PRAYER

TELL

- We're going to start with some 1 minute mysteries.
- The way this works is that I'll tell you something that happened.
- Then you have to figure out why it happened. The way you do that is by asking us questions that can be answered with a yes or a no. We'll sometimes tell you if your question is irrelevant to the answer.
- There is no limit to how many questions you can ask.

DO 1-minute riddles

NOTE: Due to time constraints, do just one or two (and do the first two which are easier) and then if there's time at the end of class, come back to the rest.

Q: A couple will build a square house. In each wall, they'll have a window. Each window, though, will face north. How?

(they'll build it on the south pole)

Q: In the middle of a field, there are a pipe, a carrot and pile of pebbles. Why?

(it is the remains of a melted snowman)

Q: A man pushes a car up to a hotel and realizes he's bankrupt. Why? What's happening?

(answer: The man is playing a game of monopoly)

Q: A woman goes into a convenience store to buy a can of Coke. She pays for it with a \$20 bill and receives \$20.05 in change. No mistake was made. What happened?

(answer: The woman was in a foreign country where the currency exchange rate was in favor of the US dollar. The woman paid with US money and received local money in return)

Q: A man is sitting in bed. He can't sleep even though he's very tired. He makes a phone call, says nothing, hangs up and falls asleep quickly. Why?

(answer: The man is at a hotel. The person next door is snoring so loudly that the man cannot sleep. So the man calls the snoring person's room. The snoring person wakes up to answer the phone. The man hangs up and falls asleep before the snoring person falls back to sleep)

Q: A horse jumps over a tower and lands on a man, the man then disappears. Why?
(answer: a chess game is happening. The knight jumped a rook and took a pawn or bishop)

God and our attention

- We've been talking about Jonah and how paying attention to God is advantageous for the individual and for the people who come into contact with that person.
- Jonah would not have been caught in the storm if he'd listened to God, and when Jonah did listen to God, Nineveh repented (repent means what? To "turn around").
- For the last class of this session, we're going to talk about insight. We're going to talk about how paying attention to God helps us to see and understand things that we wouldn't see and understand on our own.
- Insight is when we see or understand something that we didn't at first see or understand, like the answers to the 1 minute mysteries.
- Let's read the story:

READ Mark 9:1-8 (from The Message)

1 Then Jesus drove his point home by saying, "I'm not just talking about the distant future. Some of you who are standing here are going to see the kingdom of God arrive in full force." 2 Six days later, three of them did see it.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain to pray. Once they were up there and praying, Jesus' appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. 3 His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. 4 Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, and were in deep conversation with Jesus. 5 But then Peter interrupted, "Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let's make it last forever. We can build three places to live - one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah." 6 Peter blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing. 7 Immediately, a cloud filled with light enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud came a voice: "This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him." 8 The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus.

ASK

- What does Jesus in verse 1 say some will see? (the kingdom of God)
- In verse 2, where do Jesus, Peter, James and John go? (up a mountain)
- Why? (to pray)
- What happens while they're praying? (Jesus' appearance changes)
 - In what way is Jesus' appearance changed? (he lights up)
- Who do the disciples see once Jesus lights up? (Elijah and Moses)
- What does Peter then think should happen? (they should build houses and stay there)
- Why do you think he says this? (to try and make the moment last longer; he's one of those people who talks when he's nervous; wants to participate instead of watch)
- So let's agree for the moment that Peter says this to try and make the moment last longer...how successful was he at this? (not very.)
- Why not? What happens? (a shining cloud tells Peter to listen to Jesus and then everything is back to normal).

- Whose voice do you think came from the cloud? (God's)
- So what things did Peter, James and John see once they and Jesus were praying (saw Jesus light up, saw Elijah and Moses, saw a light-filled cloud that talked).

TELL

- It's after Jesus lights up when Peter, James and John see Moses and Elijah.
- And it's after Jesus lights up when they see a light-filled cloud that talks to them.
- Light is required in order that we see. When it's completely dark, then we can't see anything.
- Jesus lights up because he's praying, because he's fully immersed in God's presence. And because he's fully immersed, he can see things that others cannot. In this case, though, Peter, James and John get to have some insight too.
- Jesus doesn't light up on his own, but because he's paying attention to God.
- We have things that light up, right? (Like lightbulbs.)
- And we know that they are supposed to light up and we know that they cannot light up on their own.
- But we don't think such thoughts about ourselves, do we? For instance, we don't think we're supposed to light up like a light bulb.
- So we're going to do a demonstration of something that you might think is not supposed to light up, but when "plugged-in" it DOES light up.
- Let's juice a pickle.

DO Pickle Light-up Experiment

ASK

- Did you know a pickle could glow like that?
- But it can't do that on it's own, right?

TELL

- So Jesus wasn't being electrocuted in the Transfiguration story.
- But he *was* plugged in - plugged into God.
- And because of this, he and his disciples were able to see things they wouldn't normally see.
- We are made to shine with God's light and glory.
- But first, we have to plug into God.
- We plug in by following Jesus and doing what Jesus did: Pray, fully surrender to and be obedient to God and God's way.
- Then, when we're filled with God's light and glory, then we can see and know things about ourselves and others that we couldn't previously see.

If there's time leftover:

- Do more 1 minute mysteries
- (or fry another pickle!)

CLOSING PRAYER

Set-up for electrocuting a pickle:

The Simple Set-Up: Take a moment to go to K/Wal-Mart and in the hardware department purchase a household extension cord and plastic electrician's tape. Then go into the sewing department and get two metal crochet hooks (each one being about six inches long). This shopping spree shouldn't set you back more than five dollars. On the way home, stop at the grocery store and pick up the biggest dill pickle(s) you can find. Lastly, you're going to want to find something that can hold the pickle up. My favorite is some form of bobble-head character whose arms are stretched out.

When you get home, cut off only the end of the extension cord that doesn't plug into the wall. After removing the plastic covering surrounding the wires at the end you cut off, wrap each exposed wire around one end of a crochet hook -- covering the exposed wire with your electrician's tape to avoid being shocked.

Now, push one crochet hook into one end of the pickle, and the other hook into the other end. **MAKE SURE THE TWO HOOKS DO NOT TOUCH INSIDE THE PICKLE!!!** (If they touch, the current will arc). Place the pickle on a wooden board. Turn off the lights. Step back and plug in the modified extension cord. At this point ***DO NOT TOUCH ANY PART OF EITHER CROCHET HOOK WHILE THE CORD IS PLUGGED INTO THE WALL.** The pickle will smoke, it'll smell bad and it'll light up. You will probably want to unplug the pickle before a minute passes.

IF YOU WANT TO DO A MORE PROFESSIONAL PREP JOB, I REFER YOU TO THIS INSTRUCTIONAL (SEE BELOW) QUOTED DIRECTLY FROM [WWW.UBCLTS.COM/DOCS/ELECTROCUTE A PICKLE.DOC](http://WWW.UBCLTS.COM/DOCS/ELECTROCUTE_A_PICKLE.DOC):

Electrocute a Pickle

Materials Needed:

- large Dill pickle
- 2 ring stands
- 2 clamps for the ring stands
- 2 screws
- 1 extension cord
- electrical tape
- variac ***absolutely necessary!! DO NOT attempt this activity without this!

Procedure:

NOTE!!!!!! DO NOT TRY THIS ALONE! This should NOT be done at home and needs lots

of adult supervision. Even adults should have buddies with them to make sure they don't get hurt!!!

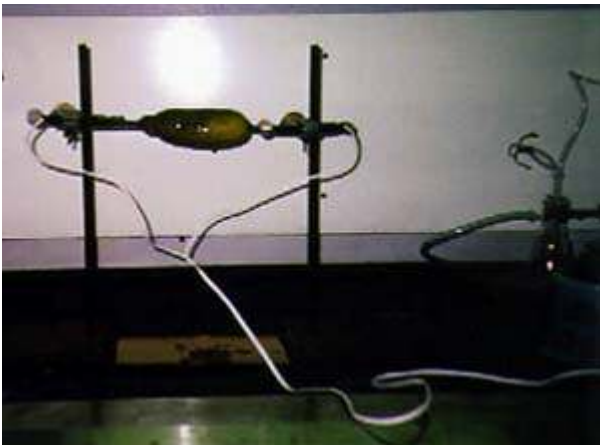
1. Make sure the extension cord is NOT plugged in. Cut the end of the extension cord with all the outlets on it. Split the 2 wires and wrap each exposed wire around a screw. Secure with electrical tape.

2. Set the ring stand up about a foot apart. Secure one screw in each clamp and have the screws facing each other.

3. Put the pickle in place. One screw should go in each end of the pickle. **MAKE SURE THE SCREWS DON'T TOUCH-THEY WILL ARCH!!!!**

4. Make sure the variac is set at 0, is switched off and unplugged. Plug the extension cord into the variac. Plug the variac in.

5. Turn the variac on and SLOWLY turn up the voltage to 120 volts.



6. At first, the pickle will start dripping. Then it will start to hiss and smoke and then it will really start glowing. And it will smell!!! Make sure you unplug the unit before removing the pickle.