

CONCEPTS / Questions the lesson will cover and explore

- What does Jesus tell the disciples to do?
- What do the disciples receive when they do what they were told to do?
- What does this story say about Jesus' ministry?

Materials needed:

1. Video clip from "Soul Surfer" (can be seen on rfour.org)
2. Electronics that show the video clip
3. Print out and then cut out words for activity of "Catch Phrase" – they are listed at end of lesson. (word lists are from <https://www.thegamegal.com>)
4. You'll want a bag or bowl to put the cut-out words in, as well
5. A timer that can easily count down 45 seconds (a smart phone or stopwatch would work well)

THE LESSON

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION

- Here's the opening question for today's class. I [the teacher] will ask the question and then to give you some time to think of an answer, I will answer first.
- Once I answer the question, we'll go around the circle.
- When it's your turn, start with your name and then answer the question to the best of your ability.
- *Here is this week's question:* What's a trick you've learned to help you do something better that you would be willing to share with the rest of us? (For example, when using Microsoft Word, pressing the shift key + F3 key will toggle the caps/case of the letters of the word your cursor is on. Or, when trying to give a pill to a dog, wrap it in a soft treat, like a small balled-up piece of bread. Or, when learning to water ski, keep your eyes on the boat in front of you and not on your skis).

TRANSITION TO ACTIVITY

- In today's scripture story, we'll read the story of Pentecost.
- Together, the disciples listen to and obey Jesus' instructions that then result in receiving God's Holy Spirit

- One of the results that happens after receiving the Holy Spirit is that more people have a chance to hear about and learn about God.
- As we'll see, this happens because there's a lot of communication with groups of people taking place.
- To get started, we're going to explore how difficult a result this is to achieve. Because, successful communication with large groups of people is not an easy thing to accomplish – having lots of people try and understand one person can just as often result in confusion and not clarity.
- To help us understand how groups of people might misunderstand what a person is saying, we're going to do an activity where one person tries to communicate to us and the group will have to try and figure out what that one person is trying to communicate

EXPLAIN ACTIVITY

- Here is a bowl with slips of paper in it.
- Each slip of paper has a word on it.
- There will be two teams
- One person from one team will come up to the front and take a slip of paper.
- Using whatever words or actions the person wants OTHER THAN SAYING THE ACTUAL WORD ON THE PAPER – the person will try to get their team to guess the word on the paper.
- If the team guesses correctly, the team gets a point, and the person takes another piece of paper and does it all over again.
- If the word is too hard, the person has one “pass” to use per 45 seconds – no point or penalty will be assessed.
- The person will have 45 seconds to get their team to guess as many words as possible.
- Then someone from the other team will come up and do the same thing for their team.
- Any questions?

DO “Catch Phrase” ACTIVITY

TELL

- As you can see from this activity, people within a group sometimes see and hear the same thing, but then arrive at different understandings of what they see and hear.
- That can be very frustrating when you are the person trying to communicate with the group.
- But, if that group is instead a TEAM, and one person in the team understands and the rest of the team trusts that person, then the whole team can benefit because of that one person's understanding.
- Also, as a team, you can help each other figure stuff out and stay focused. Even make plans to do better.
- We'll see that this is what is starting to happen with the disciples.
- They've mostly been a group of people, but their time with Jesus and the experiences they've had together and with Jesus is starting to turn them into a team.

Before we read, a review of past few classes

- In the last few classes, we've been talking about the “fight or flight” response to situations -- that when we are in stressful situations, our biological response is to run away or fight.
- For instance, we saw how the Pharisees chose to fight Jesus.

- But, we also saw that Jesus chose neither option of fight or flight, but instead chose to respond to the Pharisees with a prayerful decision.
- The result of this prayerful decision was not easy on Jesus – he was killed because of it.
- So at first, it looked like the Pharisees chose the more powerful response, right? It looked like they had won...
- But once Jesus is resurrected, we then see that God’s way of life is better and more powerful than the results of a fight or flight response.
- We saw that the Pharisees’ way of living and their decision-making resulted only in death.
- And we saw that God’s way of life did not end with death, but continued with *more* life
- During our last lesson, we looked at how Jesus’ prayerful decision and resulting resurrection started to become contagious and spread to his disciples.
- Resurrected Jesus reminded the disciples to not be scared and run away (to their old lives), but to go out and share God’s (better) way of life with others.
- In today’s story, known as the Pentecost story, we’ll see how the disciples finally start sharing God’s way of life with others and then, how God’s way of life continues to be passed on by the disciples
- Let’s see what happens

READ Acts 1:1-14; 2:1-9,12-13, 38-41

(recommend class reads it out loud; one person per verse, including teachers)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me;5for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

6So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ 7He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ 9When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.10While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

12Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. 13When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

2:1When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' 13But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

38Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' 40And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' 41So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

ASK

- Verse 1:4 – What does Jesus tell the disciples to do? (stay together in Jerusalem)
- Verse 1:5 – And what is being promised would happen if they stay in Jerusalem? (they will be baptized by the Holy Spirit)
- Verse 1:6-7 – What do you think – are the disciples following a red herring, again (term from last lesson)? (Yes. But let's not be too hard on them. Jesus isn't. Jesus just gets them back on track by telling them what to expect when they are baptized with the Holy Spirit)
- Verse 1:9 – Where does Jesus go? (up)
- And, he doesn't come back. Anyone think they remember the fancy word for Resurrected Jesus' departure? (the Ascension)
- Verse 1:12-13 – What do you think -- did the disciples listen to Jesus?
- Verse 1:14 – What did the disciples do when they were together? (constantly devote themselves to prayer)
- End of verse 1:14 – who is with the disciples? (certain women, Jesus mother and Jesus' brothers. The women, we've seen in other stories are just as devoted as the regular 12 disciples, but Mary (mom) and his brothers haven't been. This is a change in behavior for them, but it looks like they've become disciples, too, of Jesus – this is somewhat reminiscent of Joseph's 11 brothers eventually bowing down to Joseph, once they were all in Egypt)
- Verse 2:2-4 – So they are all together and praying when what happens? (the Holy Spirit arrives, like flames, and they are able to speak different languages – they were probably suddenly really good at "Catch Phrase")
- Verse 2:8 – What ability is being confirmed by the crowd? (that the disciples are speaking different languages and being understood in those different languages)
- Verse 2:38 – What does Peter say to the crowd that they can receive? (the Holy Spirit)
- Verse 2:41 – How many people appeared to believe Peter? (3000)

TELL

- The disciples finally get it.
- They stop getting distracted.
- They stop being scared.
- They do what Jesus says.
- They stay together.
- They pray.
- And then they receive God's Holy Spirit
- Just like Jesus received God's Holy Spirit when he was baptized.

- Once the disciples receive God’s Holy Spirit, they then go out and share it, just like Jesus did.
- The result is that the disciples get their own disciples -- again, just like Jesus did.
- Which means the cycle, Jesus’ ministry, is starting all over(!), only this time, instead of there just being one teacher (Jesus), there are a bunch of teachers (the original disciples).
- Jesus’ resurrection is an amazing thing – and we pay attention to it for good reason.
- But Pentecost is just as amazing – it is the success story of Jesus’ ministry: His students figured out what Jesus was teaching and are then able to continue Jesus’ work.
- And really, until this very story, there are very few indications (if any) to suggest the disciples were ever actually going to figure it out.
- But they do.
- And if they disciples can get it right, that means we can, too, if we choose.

INTRO / Transition to VIDEO

- So...what we see with the disciples in today’s story is that they’ve learned to receive God’s way of life instead of fear.
- And then they chose to communicate and share God’s way of life instead of spreading fear.
- To help us see/think about how a better way of life can be more contagious than the fearful responses of “fight or flight,” we’re going to watch a clip from the movie “Soul Surfer.”
- This story is based on a true story – the main character was attacked by a shark while surfing when she was 13 years old.
- She lost her arm due to the attack.
- With help and support from her family and community, she learned to overcome her fear of the water and continue surfing.
- Can you imagine getting back into the ocean after having your arm bitten off? Me neither!
- In today’s movie clip, the character, Beth Hamilton, is in Thailand to help out a village where a tsunami (a very large wave) struck and caused a great amount of destruction and death.
- For good reason, most of the villagers aren’t too keen about getting back into the water.
- So let’s see what happens next...

WATCH Soul Surfer VIDEO CLIP

ASK

- Who seems especially scared of the water? (the unnamed child)
- Does the child’s fear seem well-founded? Why or why not? (yes – sounds like the water killed his family)
- Does Beth force the child to get in the water? (no)
- What does she do instead? (*invites* and entices the child into the water – shows him how it is *not* dangerous)
- Does the child eventually respond to Beth’s invitations? (yes)
- At the end of the clip, who else goes into the water? (a number of the other villagers)

TELL

- What this clip helps us to see is how one person who has had a bad experience with the water is not ultimately frightened away from the water

- And because she is not afraid, then she is able to invite others who have had bad experiences with water to also not be frightened away from it.
- In other words, her better experience is more contagious to others than her (and their) bad experience.
- In today's scripture story, we see a similar pattern
- The disciples chose to live the way Jesus invited them to live and they eventually learned to see how much better it was.
- Once they learned how much better it was, they then started inviting others to join them.
- And in today's story of Pentecost, we heard that God's better way of life is contagious -- that 3000 people decided to accept this better invitation -- just like the villagers waded into the ocean, so too did the 3000 folks join the disciples.
- In the next lesson, we'll look at some other things the disciples learned by following Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

taxi cab	standing ovation	alarm clock
tool	banana peel	flagpole
money	wallet	ballpoint pen
sunburn	wedding ring	spy
baby-sitter	aunt	acne
bib	puzzle piece	pawn
astronaut	tennis shoes	blue jeans
twig	outer space	banister
batteries	doghouse	campsite
plumber	bedbug	throne
tiptoe	log	mute
pogo stick	stoplight	ceiling fan
bedspread	bite	stove
windmill	nightmare	stripe
spring	wristwatch	eat
matchstick	gumball	bobsled
bonnet	flock	sprinkler
living room	laugh	snuggle
sneeze	bud	elf
headache	slam dunk	Internet

saddle	ironing board	bathroom scale
kiss	shopping cart	shipwreck
funny	glide	lamp
candlestick	grandfather	rocket
home movies	seesaw	rollerblades
smog	grill	goblin
coach	claw	cloud
shelf	recycle	glue stick
Christmas carolers	front porch	earache
robot	foil	rib
robe	crumb	paperback
hurdle	rattle	fetch
date	iPod	dance
cello	flute	dock
prize	dollar	puppet
brass	firefighter	huddle
easel	pigpen	bunk bed
bowtie	fiddle	dentist
baseboards	letter opener	photographer
magic	Old Spice	monster

panda	housecat	moth
moose	water buffalo	caterpillar
albatross	duck	mouse
salamander	Canadian goose	rat
aardvark	joey	robin
horse	koala	black bear
hippopotamus	camel	cougar
giraffe	bald eagle	crocodile
dog	bird	penguin
pony	bat	otter
porcupine	dolphin	hamster
chameleon	swordfish	groundhog
cricket	clownfish	gila monster
leopard	rabbit	buffalo
shark	stallion	wombat
kitten	reindeer	wolf
dragon	blue whale	hyena
unicorn	tuna	platypus
basset hound	shrimp	skunk
bulldog	ladybug	beaver

puppy	weasel	owl
chipmunk	lamb	tiger
doe	ewe	pelican
ape	sheep dog	partridge
hedgehog	cow	spider
turtle	alligator	seahorse
sea turtle	llama	hive
lion	armadillo	herd
gopher	three-toed sloth	elk
fox	guinea pig	sea lion
donkey	frog	crow
zebra	toad	worm
panther	chinchilla	flock
chimpanzee	calf	school of fish
warthog	cub	seagull
parakeet	chicken	human
toucan	deer	lobster
prairie dog	dove	walrus
komodo dragon	jellyfish	crab
tortoise	duckling	wasp
squirrel	wildebeest	catfish