THIS MONTH We Will...

Teach

Learn

Week One—The Word Is the Promise Week Two—The Word Is the Method Week Three—The Word Is Truth Week Four—The Word Is Power

Read

- Isaiah 6:1-9
- Jonah 1
- John 18:33-38
- Luke 4:16-21
- Matthew 5:1-2; 7:28-29

HEA

• Acts 2:1-15, 22-24, 36-41

THE WOX

WEEK FOUR

Sing

- "Wonderful Words of Life"
- "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Memorize

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

— Romans 10:14

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Children's Worship Curriculum from

WEEK FOUR: Hearing the Word



The Word Is Power

SUPPLIES Needed

TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)*
- Lyrics for songs about our "Rock" (for Hearing the Word activity #1)

TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs* (Optional: guitar or music to sing along with)
- Basket for offering*
- Smooth stones and markers/ decorating materials (for Hearing the Word activity #2)

OPTIONAL:

- Music to sing along to (for Hearing the Word activity #1).
- Kid's Activity Sheets
 (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons* (Found in the introduction section.)

*These items will be needed every week.

LEADER'S Review

Can you imagine Peter standing boldly and proclaiming Jesus? This was the same man who just weeks before had been afraid to be known as one of Jesus's followers. The Lord had named him rightly as the "rock" as he was surely standing firm in his first sermon. The Holy Spirit had given him the powerful words to preach that day, and 3000 souls were added to the number of believers.

Do you pray for your pastor each week? He is just a man with flaws like all of us, and yet God has called him and set him apart for this ministry of the Word. Do you pray for the Holy Spirit's anointing on your pastor? Do you pray for his marriage and family? Do you pray for protection from the evil one? Do you pray for his preparation time each week and ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide him as he studies?

We need to pray for our pastors and for all those who teach in our churches, including you as you teach this very lesson. Find the prayer warriors in your church and ask them to pray for your teaching time with the children. The power of prayer is amazing, and while you don't have 3000 people listening to your teaching, the Lord is working in the lives of our little ones every day. What an incredible blessing it is to children profess faith in Christ and see the blessing of the Holy Spirit coming into their lives and changing each one of them from the inside out. Thank you for telling the old, old story!

I love to tell the story; for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long.

— "I Love to Tell the Story"

THE Lesson •••••••••••

Call to Worship - Psalm 100:1-2

(1 minute)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD he is God! It is he who made us and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Praise

Sing worship songs with the children. (10 minutes)

- "Wonderful Words of Life"
- "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Tithes and Offerings

Recite the following verse before passing around the offering basket. (2 minutes)

Give thanks with a grateful heart Give thanks to the Holy One Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

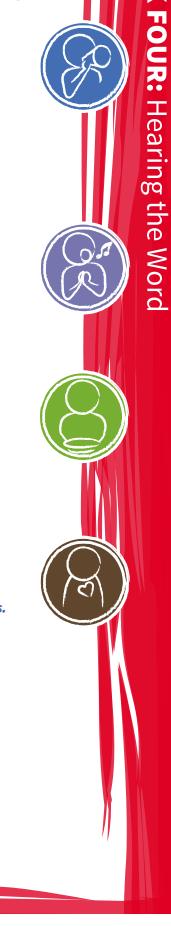
Confession of Faith

Lead the children in confessing their faith by teaching the following catechism questions. (5 minutes)

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My First Catechism Questions 14-15

- **14. Q. Where do you learn how to love and obey God?** A. In the Bible alone
- 15. Q. Who wrote the Bible?
 - A. Chosen men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit



Reading of the Word

Read Scripture. (5-7 minutes)

Acts 2:1-15, 22-24, 36-41 (The Coming of the Holy Spirit and Peter's First Sermon)

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." ¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

³⁶ "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "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. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Prayer

Pray a prayer of praise to God whose power through the Holy Spirit is ours each day. (1-2 minutes)

We worship You, O Lord, and are in awe of who You are. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. The same power through the Holy Spirit that You gave the apostle Peter to

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(Prayer—Continued)

stand up and declare the good news to the people in Jerusalem is the same power that You give us through Your Holy Spirit today to share the good news of Jesus with our friends and family. Pour Your Spirit out on us, Lord, that we may be bold to tell others the good news. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Hearing the Word

Review Questions

Last week we talked about the most famous sermon ever preached.

- What is it usually called? The Sermon on the Mount
- Who preached that famous sermon? Jesus
- What were some of the teachings in Jesus's sermon? Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness; Blessed are the merciful; Blessed are the peacemakers; You are the light of the world; Don't hate; Don't lust; Be honest; Love your enemies; Lay up treasures in heaven; Don't be anxious; Do unto others; Build your house on the rock.

In the scripture reading today you heard part of another famous sermon. After Jesus had risen from the dead and gone up into heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to live with His followers. The powerful coming of the Holy Spirit enabled Peter to preach his first sermon.

Before we look at the sermon, let's remember who Peter was.

- 1. Peter was a fisherman whom Jesus called to come and follow Him. He left his boat and for three years walked with Jesus and learned all Jesus had to teach him.
- 2. Peter's given name was Simon Bar-Jonah, but Jesus changed it to Peter, which means "Rock." He told Peter, "Because the Spirit has told you I am the Messiah, the Son of God, I will call you 'Rock.' What you know to be true is the rock on which I will build My church."
- 3. Peter walked on water and then began to sink when he took his eyes off Jesus.
- 4. Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet, but he wanted to wash Jesus's feet instead.
- 5. Peter promised to never leave Jesus but then denied he knew Jesus three times on the night Jesus was betrayed.
- 6. Peter ran to Jesus's tomb and saw it was empty.
- 7. During the forty days after the resurrection and before He returned to heaven, Jesus told Peter three times to "Feed My sheep."

Before the crucifixion, Peter had trusted in himself. After the resurrection, Peter had full faith in Christ alone. Jesus was then able to use Peter to preach to the early church because Peter had built his life on the "rock" who is Jesus. He believed Jesus was the Son of God. He believed Jesus was the sacrifice for our sins. He believed man's only hope was trusting Jesus, the Rock. That is why Peter was able to stand before thousands of people to preach this first sermon after Jesus had gone back to heaven. Peter preached what every good sermon should teach. He opened the Scriptures and explained to the people what the words were teaching about Jesus. He quoted scripture passages from the prophet Joel and from a psalm written by King David. The entire Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament, is about Jesus. He came from God to earth. He taught and performed miracles. Wicked men, who represented all of us, killed Him, but He rose from the grave so we may have victory over death. The people in Jerusalem who heard Peter preach that first sermon experienced the power of God.

When we hear the Word preached, we should have the same response as the people in Jerusalem that day. They were "cut to the heart" and asked, "What shall we do?" When we hear the Word preached, we should do what Peter told the people to do that day. "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. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself."

Peter preached the truth about Jesus, and the result was very powerful. Over 3000 people believed and followed Jesus that day! We should always pray when the Word is being preached or taught that many will believe and turn to Jesus. It is hard sometimes to pay attention when the Word is being taught or preached, but God has promised it will never be heard without its power taking effect. Preaching is powerful and changes things.

Peter was named "the rock" because Jesus sent him out to preach, teach, and show people everywhere that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Rock upon whom we should build our lives and hope. Jesus can use all of us to do important things for His church and kingdom if we believe what Peter believed. Is Jesus your Rock?

ACTIVITY #1: Play or sing several songs that refer to Jesus as the Rock: "Rock of Ages," "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand," "The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock," etc.

ACTIVITY #2: Let each child choose a rock to paint, decorate with stickers or markers. Help each one find the appropriate place to write or paint, "Jesus is my Rock."

Benediction

Recite the following verse. (1 minute)

May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace! (Ps. 29:11).

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