

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

The Empowering Power of the Spirit*Old Testament: Zechariah 4:6* (NRSV)

⁶He said to me, 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD of hosts.'

Exodus 4:1-17 (NRSV)

Moses' Miraculous Power

¹Then Moses answered, 'But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, "The LORD did not appear to you." ' ²The LORD said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' He said, 'A staff.' ³And he said, 'Throw it on the ground.' So he threw the staff on the ground, and it became a snake; and Moses drew back from it. ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Reach out your hand, and seize it by the tail'—so he reached out his hand and grasped it, and it became a staff in his hand—⁵so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.' ⁶ Again, the LORD said to him, 'Put your hand inside your cloak.' He put his hand into his cloak; and when he took it out, his hand was leprous, as white as snow. ⁷Then God said, 'Put your hand back into your cloak'—so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body—⁸If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign. ⁹If they will not believe even these two signs or heed you, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.' ¹⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, 'O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.' ¹¹Then the LORD said to him, 'Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?' ¹²Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.' ¹³But he said, 'O my Lord, please send someone else.' ¹⁴Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, 'What of your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad. ¹⁵You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. ¹⁷Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.'

New Testament: Acts 4:1-13 (NRSV)

Peter and John before the Council

¹While Peter and John² were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, ²much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. ³So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand. ⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John,² and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and

are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’ ¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

Ephesians 4:13 (NRSV)

¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

General Concept: The Holy Spirit empowers the church to be bold in proclaiming the Gospel, and equips it to fulfill her tasks.

Key Concepts in the Different Age Levels in Sunday School

N/K/YE: The Holy Spirit helps us in telling about Jesus to others.

ME/OE: The Holy Spirit helps the church in proclaiming the love of Jesus to others.

Y: The Holy Spirit empowers the church to be bold in proclaiming the Gospel, and equips it to fulfill her tasks.

A: The Holy Spirit empowers the church to be bold in proclaiming the Gospel, and equips it to fulfill her tasks.

Exegesis of the Biblical References

The book of Exodus accounts for the journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt towards the Promised Land. In Exodus, we see God's salvific interventions in a series of supernatural display of power through Moses. After the burning bush experience of Moses, God reveals God's plan for the Israelites and Moses' role and task in the said plan. In Exodus 4:1-17, God showed to Moses different forms of miracles that will convince the people to listen to him. God is equipping Moses and preparing him for the task ahead. In a way, Moses was empowered by God to fulfill the critical, historic and prophetic task being placed on his shoulder.

After the Israelites occupied the Promised Land, they became disobedient and unfaithful to God. As a result, they were exiled to Babylon for 70 years until Cyrus came to power and permitted the Israelites to return and rebuild the temple. Zechariah was tasked by God to lead in the rebuilding of the temple and provide motivation to the Israelites to press on after the people encountered many obstacles while building the temple. These obstacles have weakened them. However, Zechariah 4:6 reminds them that their success will not come from their own might or power but by God's Spirit. They only have to depend on the power of the Spirit to equip and lead them towards the fulfillment of this solemn and sacred undertaking that is so critical for the rebuilding of the formerly exiled community.

After Jesus' ascension, he sends the Holy Spirit to enable his disciples to continue the task Jesus left them. Acts narrates the zealous works of the disciples and how the Holy Spirit equipped them as they spread the gospel. In Acts 4:1-13, empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter and John affirm the name of Jesus of Nazareth as their source of authority and power before the priests, temple guards and Sadducees after they healed a crippled beggar.

The epistle to the Ephesians became instrumental in spreading the gospel, teaching the early Christians and strengthening many churches. Written and identified still as part of Paul's writings, it mentions the apostle's deep desire and need for unity between the Gentile-Christians and Jewish-Christians just like one body of Christ with many parts.

God prepares the way for God's people for any task assigned and entrusted to each one of them. Just like Moses, God equips us so we will know what to do when we are uncertain. Like Zechariah, God motivates us so we can continue even when we are tired and weary. Like Peter and John, God will empower us so we can become confident in our witness to Christ and in our service to others even when we are doubted and questioned by others. Today, we continue to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit as we strive to become one and united in Christ in proclaiming his gospel and building a new community and a new humanity.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and Other Users

The church's ministry is none other than Christ's ministry. The church's proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ is bound to provoke a challenge by the dominant powers of this world just as Jesus did. They will employ all kinds of tricks and devices to hinder if not derail the work of the gospel. The church is small and frail and its resources are not equal to its tasks. Yet, it perseveres and continues to gain ground because it draws its power from the Spirit. This assurance emboldens the church to pursue its goals.

Power from the Spirit is different from "Gentile" (read, political) power. The latter is coercive, threatening, violent, deceptive and manipulative. In contrast, spiritual power works gently and tenderly, through inner conviction and reasoning together, always seeking to preserve the unity of the church. There is always the temptation among church leaders to imitate Gentile power because it is how private gain, special privilege, prestige and public adulation are obtained. In contrast, a spiritually-empowered church leadership entails no such advantages but instead entails personal sacrifice, social disdain and material loss. This concept of power will pose a dilemma to members who are used to special privileges by virtue of their positions in society. Some will try to resolve it by keeping what is known as split-level Christianity or a double life that switches from one to the other depending on the circumstance. Others would reshape church life to fit their social practice. Still others would simply look for other congregations that they feel comfortable with.

Since even the most devoted of church leaders remain vulnerable to the seduction of the Devil, the church ought to encourage mutually reinforcing practices that cultivate the discipline under the Spirit. These practices would then become part of their regular life by institutionalizing them into organizational structures and processes, such as inventing appropriate rules in the conduct of meetings rather than adopting the customary Robert's Rules of Order (written in the late 19th century by a U.S. Army general who first used it for a church meeting).

How power is exercised in the church is also its testimony to the world. It's both a judgment on the practice of political power and an alternative model. Christians who occupy positions of leadership in society are in a unique position to demonstrate justice with compassion.

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. tell what Peter and John said about Jesus to the Court;
2. describe how the Spirit of God helped Peter and John in telling about Jesus;
2. explain that the Spirit of God helps people in telling about Jesus; and
3. acknowledge joyfully the help of the Holy Spirit.

II. **Concept:** The Holy Spirit helps us in telling about Jesus to others.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), pictures, crayons, color paper, glue

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Welcome the children. Let them greet the other children and exchange stories about what happened to them during the week.
2. Opening prayer: "Our loving and mighty God, thank you for making us, loving us, guiding us, and forgiving us. Be with us as we study your Word. In Jesus' mighty name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening songs: "It's a Good Thing to Praise the Lord" and other greeting songs

B. Getting Ready

Show assorted pictures of different activities of children. As you present each picture, ask the class if they are afraid or not afraid to do it. Process the responses of the children and determine the causes of fear in doing those things. End the discussion by emphasizing the need to understand the activity to minimize fear.

C. Learning Time

1. Prepare the children by letting them sit on their throw pillows and recite the finger play, "Open shut them."
2. Tell the story and use the pictures whenever necessary.

Peter and John Tell Others about Jesus

(Based on Acts 4:1-13)

After Jesus resurrected, the apostles continued to talk about Jesus. They spoke about what Jesus did for them.

One day, Peter and John were in the Temple. They told the people that Jesus is alive. He is raised from the dead.

Many people believed what they heard from Peter and John. But the other religious leaders wanted them to stop talking about Jesus. They did not believe in the resurrection. They arrested them and put them in prison.

The next day, Peter and John faced the Court. They were asked, "By whose power do you do these things?"

Peter and John were filled with the Spirit of God. They became bold in saying, "It is Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Christ who saves us all."

The Court listened and saw that Peter and John were not afraid to witness for Jesus.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Ask the following questions.

1. After Jesus resurrected, what did the apostles continue doing? (They talked about Jesus and what Jesus did for them.)

2. Where were Peter and John? (At the Temple) Why? (They told the people that Jesus is alive. He is raised from the dead.)
3. How did the listeners react? (Some people believed in what Peter and John said. Some did not.) Who are these people and why? (The religious leaders did not believe in the resurrection of Jesus.)
4. As a result, what happened to Peter and John? (They were arrested and imprisoned.)
5. Where did Peter and John go the next day? (Peter and John faced the Court.)
6. What did the court people ask them? ("By whose power do you do these things?")
7. What happened to Peter and John before they answered? (Peter and John were filled with the Spirit of God.)
8. What did Peter and John answer? ("It is Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Christ who saves us all.")
9. How did the Court react? (The Court listened and saw that Peter and John were not afraid to witness for Jesus.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: Who helps us in telling Jesus to others? (The Holy Spirit)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Let the class recall their previous activity on whether they are afraid or not in doing things. Tell them that with the help of the Holy Spirit, they can tell about Jesus without being afraid.
2. Prepare the class to become faithful and joyful witnesses of Jesus. Ask the children the things they can do to tell others about Jesus joyfully and without being afraid.
 - a. Expect these responses from the **Nursery Class**. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I can use my artwork to tell my friends about Jesus; I can sing my song to tell the love of Jesus to me; I can recite a poem to tell others about Jesus; I can be kind to others and tell others that Jesus is kind too; etc.
 - b. Expect these responses from the **Kindergarten Class**. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I can use my artwork to tell my friends about Jesus; I can sing my song to tell the love of Jesus to me; I can recite a poem to tell others about Jesus; I can read a story about Jesus; I can write a letter to my parents and tell them that Jesus loves me; I can use my phone to tell my friends about Jesus; etc.
 - c. Expect these responses from the **Younger Elementary Class**. With the help of the Holy Spirit, I can use my artwork to tell my friends about Jesus; I can sing my song to tell the love of Jesus to me; I can recite a poem to tell others about Jesus; I can play an instrument to tell my friends about Jesus; I can use a megaphone on stage and tell others about Jesus; I can join a drama showing Jesus as my hero; etc.

G. Closing Worship

1. Memory verse: "This Jesus is the ... name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:11-12).
2. Offering
3. Closing song: "O Holy Spirit Rouse Your Church/Balaan Nga Espiritu" (HFJ 180)
4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we thank you for giving us strength to talk about your love for us and your presence in our lives through your Holy Spirit. Be with us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Middle and Older Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. tell how Peter and John defended themselves before the Council;
2. describe how the Spirit of God helped Peter and John in telling about Jesus;
3. relate the conviction of Peter and John with our conviction to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ for us; and
4. acknowledge joyfully the help of the Holy Spirit.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit helps the church in proclaiming the love of Jesus to others.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets, table, witnessing plan template

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Smile and greet the children as they come. Check the attendance.
2. Opening prayer: "Almighty God, we acknowledge your presence in our lives. As we study your Word, we seek your wisdom to be able to understand and apply your Word in our lives. This is our prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen."
3. Opening song: "I Am Yours O Lord" (HFJ # 283)

B. Getting Ready

Ask several learners to role play different activities done by children. After each presentation, ask the class if they are afraid or not afraid to do what they have seen. Process the responses of the children and determine the causes of fear in doing those things. End the discussion by emphasizing the need to understand the activity to minimize fear.

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the class that the Council is like the Court and another name for the Council is the Sanhedrin.
2. Tell the class to read Acts 4:1-17 in unison.
3. Ask the class to rearrange the sequence of the events using these sentences.
 - a. The next day, Peter and John faced the Court. They were asked, "By whose power do you do these things?"
 - b. After Jesus resurrected, the apostles continued to talk about Jesus. They spoke about what Jesus did for them.
 - c. Many people believed what they heard from Peter and John. But the other religious leaders wanted them to stop talking about Jesus. They did not believe in the resurrection. They arrested them and put them in prison.
 - d. One day, Peter and John were in the Temple. They told the people that Jesus is alive. He is raised from the dead.
 - e. The Court listened and saw that Peter and John were not afraid to witness for Jesus.
 - f. Peter and John were filled with the Spirit of God. They became bold in saying, "It is Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Christ who saves us all."

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

Tell the class to make interpretations based on the events concerning Peter and John.

1. After Jesus resurrected, why do you think the apostles continued witnessing for Jesus? (They believed in Jesus and obeyed his command to preach and make disciples of all nations.)
2. Why do you think Peter and John preach at the Temple? (There were many people there at that time.)
3. Why do you think many believed what Peter and John said? (They were unafraid in telling the people that Jesus is alive and has been raised by God from the dead.)
4. Why do you think the religious leaders did not believe what Peter and John were saying? (The religious leaders did not believe in the resurrection of Jesus. Maybe they saw Peter and John as a threat to their political positions.)
5. Why do you think the religious leaders arrest Peter and John? (Maybe they were afraid more people will believe them and this might be a disadvantage for them.)
6. Why do you think the Council was amazed with Peter and John as they defended themselves? (Peter and John were bold in speaking their conviction.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: Who helps the church in proclaiming the love of Jesus to others? (The Holy Spirit)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

Tell the children to do the following activities:

1. **Middle Elementary Class.** Tell the class to complete the table and process the responses.

Things to do to follow Christ	Excuses not to follow Christ
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.

2. **Older Elementary Class.** Tell the class that Peter and John showed boldness in witnessing for Jesus after they have been filled with the Holy Spirit. Using the boldness as provided for by the Holy Spirit, ask the class to write a witnessing plan using the following template”
 Person in mind to witness for Jesus”
 Planned activities including witnessing companions, venue, and budget
 Evaluation of the activities
 Report of the proceedings to be give to: _____

G. Closing Worship

1. Memory verse: “This Jesus is the ... name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:11-12).
2. Offering
3. Closing song: “I Am Yours O Lord” (HFJ # 283)
4. Closing prayer: “Dear God, we acknowledge your unconditional love for us. Empower us with your Holy Spirit to be able to witness boldly and joyfully. In Christ’s name, this is our prayer. Amen.”

Youth Level

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. retell the defense of Peter and John before the Council;
2. analyze how God equipped Moses to lead God's people;
3. compare the advice of God to Moses and the way Peter and John proclaimed the love of Jesus Christ;
4. list ways by which Christians are equipped by the church to resolve their fears and doubts in proclaiming the Gospel; and
5. acknowledge joyfully the help of the Holy Spirit.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit empowers the church to be bold in proclaiming the Gospel, and equips it to fulfill her tasks.

Materials: The Holy Bible (NRSV), worksheets

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "Merciful God, as we study your word, may the Holy Spirit guide us. Give us the ability to comprehend your commands, the strength to obey them, and the assurance that you will deliver your promise. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."
3. Opening song: "I Am Yours O Lord" (HFJ # 283)

B. Getting Ready

Provide the class a list of things to remember to understand God's Word.

1. Focus on God's Word. After reading the text, express your initial understanding.
2. Find relationships expressed in the text. Emphasize how God uses the biblical stories to show his unconditional love. Describe the fulfillment of God's love through the life of Jesus.
3. Explore options on how God's Word can be applied in real life situations.
4. End the study with worship. Include our feelings towards God and our responses to challenges we meet along the way using Jesus' model and the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

C. Learning Time

1. Divide the class into two groups. Assign the first group the OT texts and the second group the NT texts. Tell each group to read the texts and talk about the events and the highlights.
2. Provide the following guide to be used by each group.
 - a. *Group 1: Zechariah 4:6/Exodus 4:1-17*
 - 1) Giving of God's Word: Not by might nor power but by the Spirit of God
 - 2) Three questions of Moses for God
 - 3) Five things God gives Moses to equip him for the work of God
 - 4) Equipping Moses to minister to the believers and nonbelievers
 - b. *Group 2: Acts 4:1-13/Ephesians 4:13*
 - 1) Peter and John filled with the Spirit of God speaking at the Temple about Jesus

- 2) The believers and the unbelievers of Peter and John
- 3) Arrest and imprisonment of Peter and John
- 4) Peter and John before the Sanhedrin
- 5) Result of the defense proceedings of Peter and John
- 6) Unity of faith, knowledge of Jesus, maturity, and full measure of stature of Christ among the believers

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Ask these questions.
 - a. What did Moses ask God? (verse 1, verse 10, and verse 13)
 - b. Why do you think Moses feel that God’s work plan for him will not succeed? [1) Since Moses is an outlaw, he thinks he cannot do the job; 2) If Moses fails, he will be the one who will suffer the consequences; and 3) Moses lacks faith in God and his trust on God has not been established.]
 - c. How did God equip or empower Moses? [1) Use of the miracles on his staff, his leprous hand, and the turning of water into blood; giving Aaron as Moses’ spokesman; telling Moses the name of God; assurance of God’s presence to help him on what to say and do; and his staff that will do the signs]
2. Tell the class to compare the advice of God to Moses and the way Peter and John proclaimed the love of Jesus Christ.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: Who empowers the church to be bold in proclaiming the Gospel, and equips it to fulfill her tasks. (The Holy Spirit)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Explain to the class that when they face life challenges, their fears and doubts keep them from witnessing for Jesus Christ. Tell them to list their fears and doubts that hinder them from witnessing.

Fears that hinder their witnessing task for Christ	Doubts that hinder their witnessing task for Christ
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.

2. Process the responses of the class. For each fear and doubt, emphasize the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering and equipping them to be faithful and joyful witnesses for Christ.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: “I Am Yours O Lord” (HFJ # 283)
3. Closing prayer: “Loving God, thank you for empowering and equipping us through your Spirit. May we always witness for Christ as we live our daily lives through our actions to both the believers and nonbelievers. In Jesus’ mighty and saving name, we pray. Amen.”

“Adult Level

II. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. retell the defense of Peter and John before the Council;
2. analyze how God equipped Moses to lead His people;
3. compare the advice of God to Moses and the way Peter and John proclaimed the love of Jesus Christ;
4. list ways by which Christians are equipped by the church to boldly proclaim the Gospel; and
5. acknowledge joyfully the help of the Holy Spirit.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit empowers the church to be bold in proclaiming the Gospel, and equips it to fulfill her tasks.

Materials: The Holy Bible (NRSV), worksheets

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: “Merciful God, as we study your word, may the Holy Spirit guide us. Give us the ability to comprehend your commands, the strength to obey them, and the assurance that you will deliver your promise. This is our prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
3. Opening song: “I Am Yours O Lord” (HFJ # 283)

B. Getting Ready

Provide the class a list of things to remember to understand God’s Word.

1. Focus on God’s Word. After reading the text, express your initial understanding.
2. Find relationships expressed in the text. Emphasize how God uses the biblical stories to show his unconditional love. Describe the fulfillment of God’s love through the life of Jesus.
3. Explore options on how God’s Word can be applied in real life situations.
4. End the study with worship. Include our feelings towards God and our responses to challenges we meet along the way using Jesus’ model and the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

C. Learning Time

Divide the class into two groups. Assign the first group the OT texts and the second group the NT texts. Tell each group to read the texts and talk about the events and the highlights using these key sentences.

1. *Group 1:* Zechariah 4:6/Exodus 4:1-17
 - a. God told Zerubbabel that the Word is given not by might nor power but by the Spirit of God.
 - b. Moses asks God three questions because of his low self-esteem.
 - c. God encourages Moses by gifting him five things to equip him for the work of God.
 - d. Moses is instructed to minister to the believers and nonbelievers.
2. *Group 2:* Acts 4:1-13/Ephesians 4:13
 - a. Peter and John were filled with the Spirit of God to equip them in their bold witnessing for Jesus Christ at the Temple.

- b. There were people who believed after hearing Peter and John. The religious leaders did not believe them.
- c. Peter and John were arrested and imprisoned because of their witnessing task.
- d. Peter and John faced the Sanhedrin.
- e. Peter and John were able to defend themselves by sticking to God’s Word.
- f. Believers need to unify in faith and knowledge of Jesus, to be mature, and to know the maturity, and full measure of stature of Christ.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Ask these questions.
 - a. What did Moses ask God? (verse 1, verse 10, and verse 13)
 - b. Why do you think Moses feel that God’s work plan for him will not succeed? [1) Since Moses is an outlaw, he thinks he cannot do the job; 2) If Moses fails, he will be the one who will suffer the consequences; and 3) Moses lacks faith in God and his trust on God has not been established.]
 - c. How did God equip or empower Moses? [1) Use of the miracles on his staff, his leprous hand, and the turning of water into blood; giving Aaron as Moses’ spokesman; telling Moses the name of God; assurance of God’s presence to help him on what to say and do; and his staff that will do the signs)]
2. Tell the class to compare the advice of God to Moses and the way Peter and John proclaimed the love of Jesus Christ.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: Who empowers the church to be bold in proclaiming the Gospel, and equips it to fulfill her tasks. (The Holy Spirit)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Explain to the class that God empowered and equipped Moses, Peter, and John to be able to do God’s work. Their work is not intended for believers alone but to include the nonbelievers, as well. Tell the class to include in their list the believers and nonbelievers that they plan to reach out in their witnessing plan for Christ.

List of believers that you plan to reach out for Christ	List of nonbelievers that you plan to reach out for Christ
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.

2. Process the responses of the class. Draw from the class how God worked through their lives to be able to be faithful and joyful witnesses for Christ.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: “I Am Yours O Lord” (HFJ # 283)
3. Closing prayer: “Loving God, thank you for empowering and equipping us through your Spirit. May we always witness for Christ as we live our daily lives through our actions to both the believers and nonbelievers. In Jesus’ mighty and saving name, we pray. Amen.”