

## The Difference a Day Makes

<b>Overview</b>	The transforming power of the Holy Spirit
<b>Title</b>	The Difference a Day Makes
<b>Metaphor/Image</b>	Earth from the moon
<b>Treatment</b>	Peter's personal transformation to a leader of the early church is indicative of the transformation that the resurrection makes in our lives through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
<b>Human Need</b>	We all can be changed; hope for a better future.
<b>Experience</b>	That the community of believers will notice the transforming power of the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives (A service primarily for believers)
<b>Word</b>	
<b>Primary Scripture</b>	Acts 2:1-21
<b>Lectionary Week</b>	Pentecost, Year C
<b>Related Scripture</b>	Judges 6
<b>Topics</b>	
<b>Primary Topics</b>	Church, transformation, Holy Spirit, Pentecost, Peter
<b>Related Topics</b>	Church's birthday, change, courage, leadership, conversion, influence, significance, languages

### Movie Clip Suggestions

1. *The Apostle* (1998)

Plot: A country preacher named Sonny (Robert Duvall) has a transforming spiritual experience after committing a brutal crime.

Clip: When a man arrives at his church to bulldoze it, the Apostle E.F. (Duvall) helps him find peace in a dramatic conversion scene. The whole scene is too long; watch for the appropriate spot to cut.

Time: (VHS) 1:39:02-1:47:05, (DVD) Chapter 20 0:00-8:03, length 8:03

2. *Apollo 13* (1995)

Plot: The true story of the moon-bound mission that developed severe trouble and the men that rescued it with skill and dedication.

Clip: A party at the Jim Lovell (Tom Hanks)'s house witnesses Walter Cronkite announcing the moon landing. Start with mom yelling, "hey kids!" and ending with Tom Hanks in the backyard putting his thumb over the moon.

Time: (VHS) 04:10-05:30, (DVD) Chapter 1 4:10-5:30, length 1:20

Clip: Lovell dreams of walking on the moon and seeing the earth. Extended end would include Lovell with the same thumb over the moon shot as in the other clip.

Time: (VHS) 1:12:05-1:13:48, (DVD) Chapter 31 0:00-1:43, length 1:43

**Music** Suggestions

1. "We Are the World"—USA for Africa, 80s song
2. "Walking on the Moon"—The Police, 80s song
3. "Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire"—hymn
4. "Spirit of the Living God"—hymn
5. "Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart"—hymn

**Lumiclip Description**

This animation allows worshippers the opportunity to share Neil Armstrong's experience on that monumental day in 1969. The clip features the actual audio recorded by NASA during the moon landing. Inspirational. Running Time :33

**Integration**

**Call to Worship**

*Possibly open with the Apollo 13 clip or the Lumiclip, followed by (Sample script):*

"In 1969, the world watched in amazement as a man stepped on the moon for the first time. That moment transformed our perception of the world when we saw it as a blue marble—the Earth from God's point of view.

"The Pentecost story invites us to see ourselves and our world from God's point of view. We all hope to do something life changing—to be transformed, to change the world around us. The invitation of Pentecost is to recognize the ways in which the Holy Spirit is already at work doing just that in us. Isn't it amazing what a difference a day can make? Let's join together and worship the God who transforms."

### Closing Words

"May the Holy Spirit make a new day in your heart, mind and soul. Go in the peace of God and be transformed by the presence of the Spirit in your life."

### Prayer

Lead the congregation on a guided prayer:

"Take a moment and reflect quietly. Open your hands in your lap so your palms face upward. From this position, ask yourself some questions: What are the days of your life that have been significant for you, when you have sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit? These may be your first awareness of the Holy Spirit in your own life, or a wedding, or your child's birth. It may be a time of intimate bonding with a friend. This change may, like Peter, be a conversion or the emergence of tacit personality traits. Name these in your heart one by one and offer thanksgiving to God for these moments."

### Drama

**DRAMATIC:** An instructor gives a test to a group of students to configure a Rubik's cube within ten minutes. All of the students begin struggling with the cube. A craftsman/janitor walks in the room and asks the professor what they're doing. The instructor explains they have to configure the Rubik's cube in the allotted time. The blue collar worker looks at the Rubik's cube, takes out a large knife (or grabs a saw from a nearby utility closet) and cuts the Rubik's cube into little dice, then he glues it back together again with the proper colors aligned. He shows that it's all about perspective.

**COMEDIC:** A pessimist complains to an optimist about all the problems that he/she is encountering. The optimist offers comic solutions from a fresh perspective. For example, the pessimist explains that he/she has back pains. The optimist grabs a ball peen hammer and whacks the pessimist's toe. "OWW! WHY'D YOU DO THAT?" "Well, your back doesn't hurt any more, does it?"

### Display

Use space paraphernalia: posters of the Milky Way galaxy, nebula, solar system, and maybe planets to hang in the sanctuary. Use dark blue gels on your stage lights, if you have them—maybe even a gobo with a pattern of stars.

### Scripture Commentary

The New Testament contains a story of two Peters. The Peter of the Gospels is a regular dude—a fisherman who loved the sea, loved being a guy, acted impulsively and alternately with or without courage. But Acts shows a very different Peter—one who has the authority and leadership to guide the fledgling church to its future. The character of his change personifies the power

of the resurrection that is expressed at Pentecost. Peter's life had been transformed by the resurrected Jesus. (In fact, his change is in some ways the strongest empirical evidence of the fact of the Resurrection, for those looking for evidence for their faith.)

This is a really important story for an entire group of people with the Church, the Pentecostals. It is important both to acknowledge that and to realize that beyond the personal spiritual dimension of communication with God through the prayer of speaking in tongues, the gift of tongues as expressed at Pentecost is about languages: the ability of the various peoples from different cultural identities to be able to communicate the life changing power of the Gospel. It is about the empowerment of people to understand others with the compassion of Christ. Moreover, the power of the wind and flames imagery in Acts that precipitates the arrival of this gift is the same power that transformed Peter.

**Keywords**

Languages, transformation, Holy Spirit, Pentecost, Peter, church's birthday, change, courage, leadership, conversion, influence, significance, *Apollo 13*, Earth, space, Moon, day, astronauts, Apostle