

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Peter Visited Cornelius

Acts 10

- **Use props:** Arrange a sheet on the floor with plastic or stuffed animals (camels, rabbits, pigs, eagles, owls, bats, and so forth).
- **Move and tell:** Move around the room as you tell about Peter going different places: up on the roof and to Cornelius's house.

Cornelius was a man who lived in Caesarea (SESS uh REE uh). He **was an officer in the Roman army, and he and everyone in his house worshiped God.** Cornelius helped other people, and he always prayed to God. **One afternoon, Cornelius saw a vision of an angel of God coming to him.** The angel said, “Cornelius!”

Cornelius was afraid. He looked at the angel and said, “What is it?”

The angel said, “God has heard your prayers, and He has seen how you help others.” Then **the angel instructed Cornelius to send for a man named Peter, who was in the city of Joppa. When the angel left, Cornelius sent two of his servants and one soldier to Joppa.**

The next day, as the servants and soldier were nearing the city, **Peter went up on the roof of the house to pray.** He was hungry, but while he was waiting for the meal, **Peter saw a vision. In this vision, Peter saw something like a large sheet coming down from heaven. In the sheet were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and birds. Then a voice said to him, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat!”**

“No, Lord!” Peter said. “I have never eaten anything that is not clean or not used for food.”

Again, a voice said to him, “God has made these clean. Do not call them unfit to eat.” This happened three times, and then the whole thing was taken up into heaven. Peter tried to understand what the vision meant.

Then the men Cornelius had sent arrived at the gate. They explained that Cornelius had seen a vision, and an angel instructed him to send for Peter. So the next day,

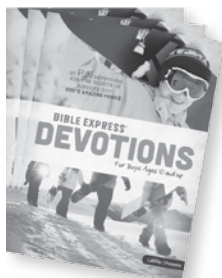
Peter went with the men to Caesarea.

When Peter got to Cornelius's house, he began to speak. Peter explained that God does not consider some people to be better than others. God had sent good news to the Israelites—Jesus is Lord of all. “Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven,” Peter said.

While Peter said this, the Holy Spirit came down on those who heard the message—not just the Jewish people, but the Gentiles, or non-Jews, too. The Jewish believers were amazed.

Cornelius, his friends, and his relatives were baptized in the name of Jesus, and Peter stayed with them for a few days.

Christ Connection: God showed Peter that just as there is no “clean” and “unclean” food, there are no “clean” and “unclean” people. God calls believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter who they are or where they come from. Jesus is the Lord of all.



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Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Word Search

Find the words hidden in the puzzle.

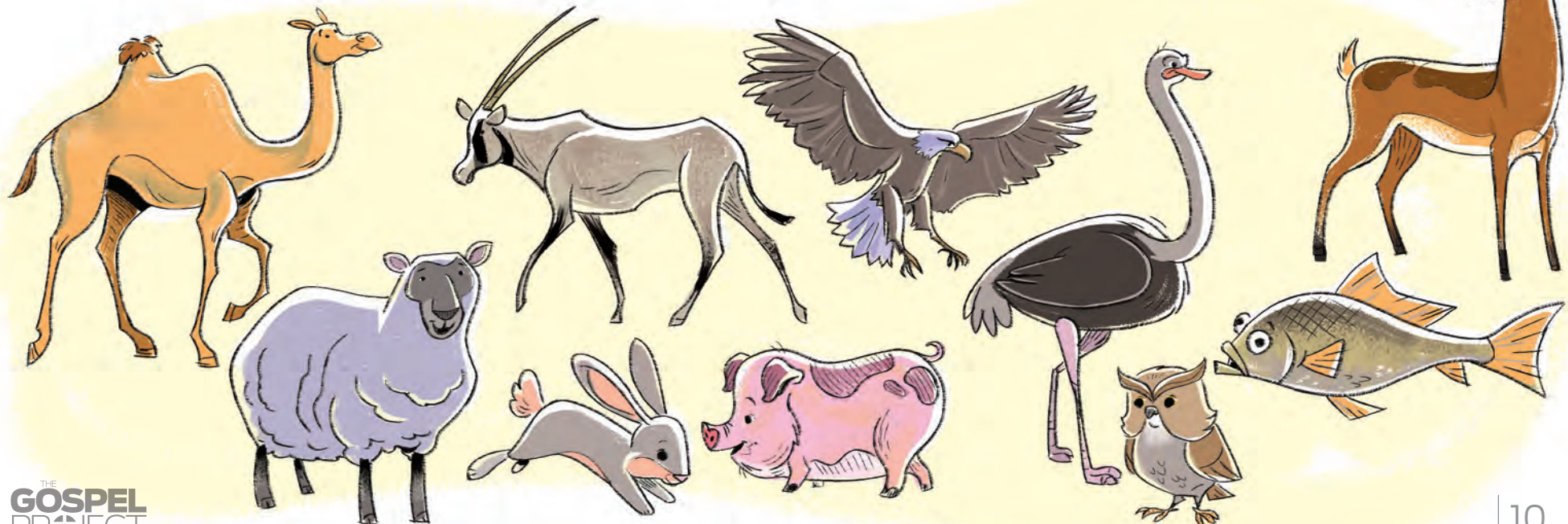
WORD SEARCH

ANGEL	JEWS
ANIMALS	LORD
CLEAN	PETER
CORNELIUS	PRAY
EAT	ROOF
GENTILES	UNCLEAN
GOSPEL	VISION

Z	R	T	C	C	K	Q	E	P	G	R	M	I	Y	H	C	L	H	I	K
J	G	E	Y	I	O	L	J	I	E	Q	M	J	U	H	E	B	W	Z	N
D	X	V	M	U	C	R	A	F	N	P	T	C	T	P	P	V	F	C	M
K	A	W	P	N	E	E	N	N	T	F	A	T	S	L	X	I	B	L	S
P	T	N	Q	C	Z	O	S	E	I	R	C	O	F	B	U	S	J	E	F
X	E	M	G	L	N	N	M	S	L	M	G	S	G	G	N	I	E	A	A
U	T	A	U	E	O	Y	Z	S	E	I	A	D	K	Z	E	O	W	N	I
N	I	Z	T	A	L	R	J	Z	S	C	U	L	O	J	S	N	S	Q	W
J	F	T	R	N	B	J	D	U	G	P	E	S	S	V	F	S	A	M	G
D	P	R	A	Y	L	P	E	T	E	R	H	V	A	R	O	O	F	P	S

Clean or Unclean?

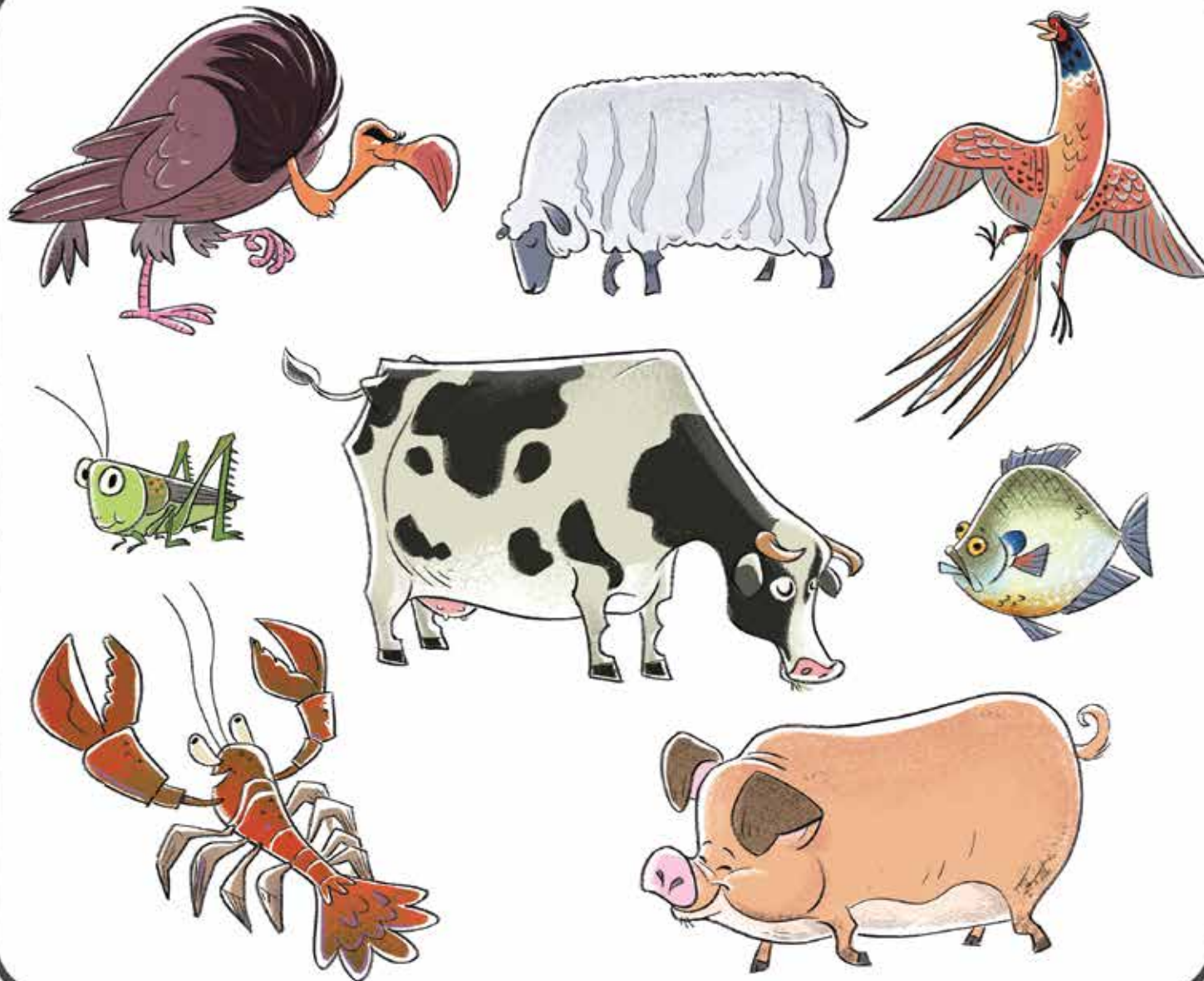
God's laws for His people told them which animals they could eat ("clean" animals) and which animals they could not eat ("unclean" animals). Can you guess which animals the Jews were allowed to eat and which were not allowed? Read Deuteronomy 14:3-20 to check your answers.



Clean or Unclean?

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle animals that were clean under Jewish law. Cross out unclean animals. Check Deuteronomy 14:3-20 if you get stuck!



KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.

BIBLE STORY:

PETER VISITED CORNELIUS

- God sent Cornelius to find Peter.
- Peter had a vision of unclean animals.
- Peter learned that God made unclean things clean.
- God told Peter to preach to Cornelius, a Gentile.

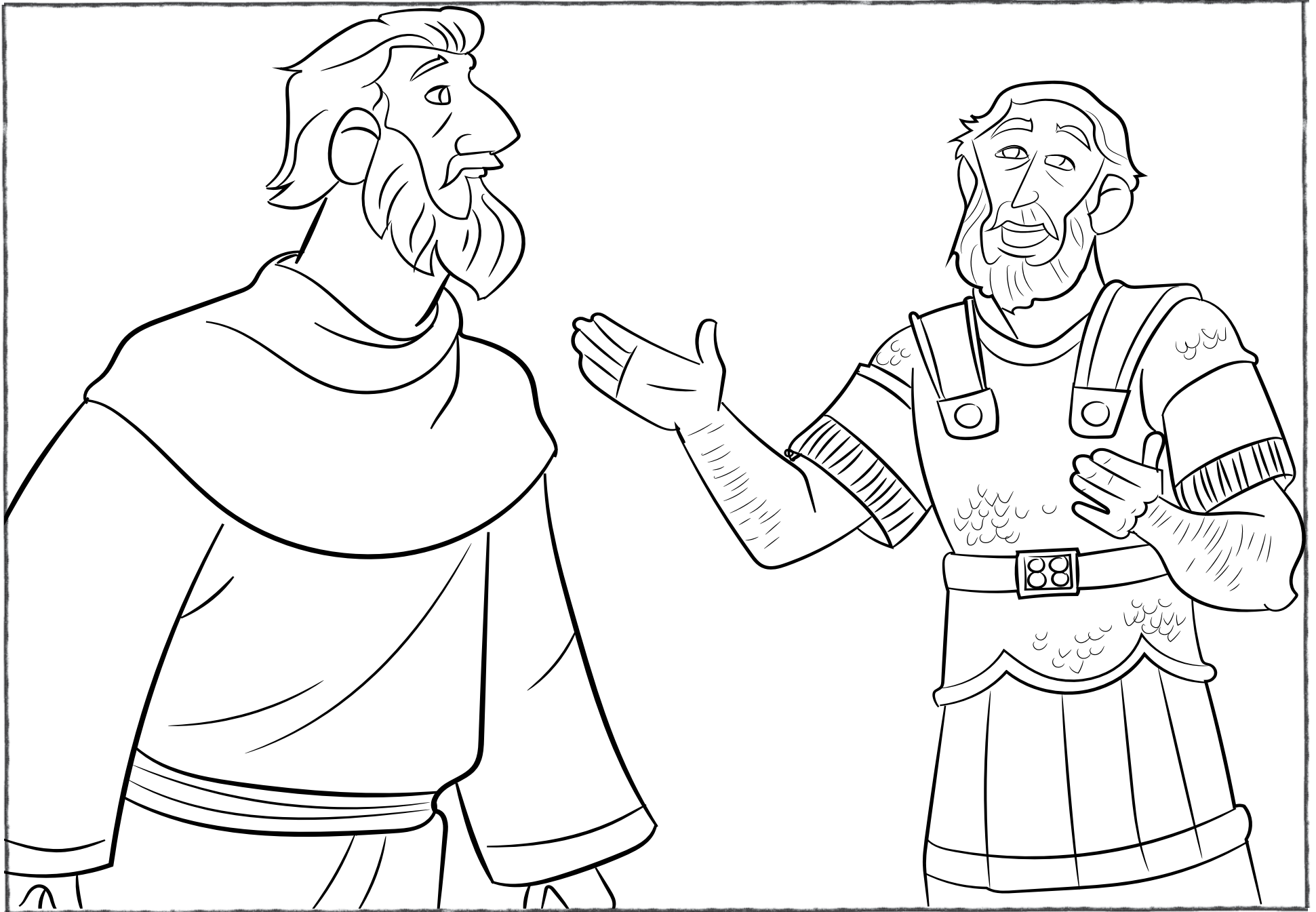
FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How do you treat people who are different from you?
- What is one way all people are alike?
- How can we show love to everyone?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Crush chocolate cookies into whipped topping to make “mud pie” treats.
- Eat at a restaurant that serves a food from a culture you are unfamiliar with, and discuss how Jesus will unite people of all nations under His rule.

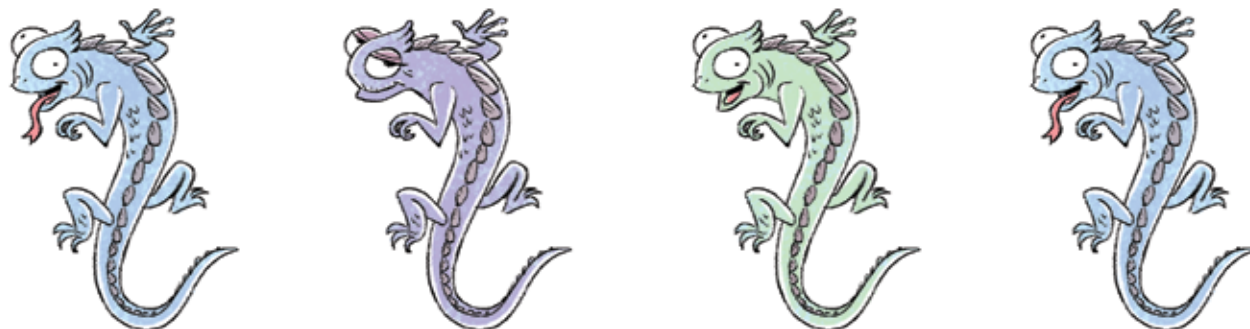
Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 28, Session 5



Find the Match

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INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the two animals in each row that are the same.



KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

BIBLE STORY:

PETER VISITED CORNELIUS

- An angel told Cornelius to send some men to find Peter.
- God gave Peter a vision.
- Peter learned the gospel is for all people.
- Peter told Cornelius, his family, and his friends about Jesus.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why do you think God gave Peter the vision before Cornelius's men arrived?
- Whom are some people we might think the good news is NOT for?
- For whom is the good news about Jesus?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Ask family members to identify someone they do not get along with. Remind each other that the good news is for that person too. Challenge family members to pray for that person throughout the week.

Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 28, Session 5

Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- How do you treat people who are different than you?
- What is one way all people are alike?
- How can we show love to everyone?



Peter Visited Cornelius

Acts 10

MAIN POINT: THE HOLY SPIRIT TOLD PETER TO PREACH TO CORNELIUS, A GENTILE.

Cornelius was an officer in the Roman army, and he and everyone in his house worshiped God. One afternoon, Cornelius saw a vision of an angel of God coming to him. The angel instructed Cornelius to send for a man named Peter, who was in the city of Joppa. When the angel left, Cornelius sent two of his servants and one soldier to Joppa.

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Then the men Cornelius had sent arrived at the gate. They explained that Cornelius had seen a vision, and an angel instructed him to send for Peter. So the next day, Peter went with the men.

When Peter got to Cornelius's house, he explained that God does not consider some people to be better than others. God had sent good news to the Israelites—Jesus is Lord of all.

"Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven," Peter said.

While Peter said this, the Holy Spirit came down on those who heard the message—not just the Jewish people, but the Gentiles, or non-Jews, too. The Jewish believers were amazed.

Cornelius, his friends, and his relatives were baptized in the name of Jesus.

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The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.