

PETER VISITS CORNELIUS

Acts 10



Contents

Message	God wants anyone who believes in Him to be a part of His plan of salvation.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ God told Peter to tell a non-Jewish soldier about Jesus.■ Only those who sincerely believe in God can receive the Holy Spirit.■ God's plan of salvation includes all people and nations.
Bible Text	Acts 10

Peter Visits Cornelius



In Caesarea, there lived a Gentile named, Cornelius. Although he was a Roman army officer, he was a religious and devout man. He worshipped God, prayed regularly, and gave freely to people in need.

One night, Cornelius had a vision. An angel of God came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

Afraid, Cornelius replied, "What do you want, Lord?"

The angel answered, "Your prayers and alms have come before God. Send men to Joppa to find Peter. He will tell you what you must do."

When the angel left, Cornelius called two of his servants and a soldier who also believed in Christ. He told them everything that had happened then sent them to Joppa to find Peter. The next day while Peter prepared a meal, he had a vision. He saw heaven open up. Then an object like a large sheet bound by its four corners was let down to earth. In it were all kinds of animals, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air.

At that moment, a voice came to Peter and said, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat." Peter replied, "No, I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

The voice spoke to Peter a second time and said, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." This was spoken three times to Peter before the object was taken up to heaven again.

While Peter wondered what this vision meant, the three men from Caesarea stood at his gate. The Spirit then said to Peter, "Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing, for I have sent them."

Peter found the men and asked them why they had come. The men told him that they had been sent by Cornelius the Centurion, and they told him, "Cornelius the centurion is a just man, who fears God and has a good reputation among all nations of the Jews. He was divinely told by an angel to bring you to his house, and do what you tell him to do." Peter invited the men into his home.

The next day, Peter went with the three men to Caesarea. Some believers from Joppa went with them. Back in Caesarea, Cornelius called together his relatives and friends. When Cornelius met Peter, he fell to his knees and worshipped him.

Peter lifted him up and said, "Stand up. I myself am only a man." He found many who had gathered at Cornelius' house to wait for him, and Peter understood the vision he had.

God wanted him to accept all people who respected Him and did what is right, not just the Jews. Peter asked Cornelius why he had sent for him.

Cornelius told Peter about his vision. He emphasised that all the people gathered were ready to listen to what God had to say through him. Peter spoke to the people about Jesus. He told them that after Jesus was baptised by John, God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit, which He used to heal the sick and proclaim the word of God through all Judea.

He also told them about Jesus' death and resurrection. While Peter spoke these words, the Gentiles who listened to his message received the Holy Spirit. They spoke in different languages and praised God. Peter knew that the people had received the Holy Spirit and baptised them in the name of the Lord.

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....
Let some of the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.
Provide disguise, a large sheet, a cord, little animals like ants, bugs, frogs ...

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- What does the angel tell Cornelius? ("Find Peter, he will tell you what you must do".)
- Why is Peter surprised when the voice tells him, "Rise, kill and eat"?
(The animals are unclean.)
- What does Peter's vision mean? (He should share Jesus' teachings with non-Jews.)

Have the children repeat...

- God told Peter to tell a non-Jewish soldier about Jesus.
- Those who sincerely believe in God can receive the Holy Spirit.
- God's plan of salvation includes all people and nations.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Peter was asked not to exclude the non-Jews.
- We should not exclude anyone when we share the message about God's plan of salvation.

Repeat the Message

God wants anyone who believes in Him to be a part of His plan of salvation.