



Peter Visits Cornelius

Acts 10:1-44

Meet Cornelius

This passage begins at the home of Cornelius, a Roman centurion in Caesarea, the headquarters for the Roman occupation of that area. As a centurion, Cornelius would have been in charge of a unit of about 100 men, and he was considered a man of noble character.

For a non-Jew to have been considered God-fearing meant that Cornelius followed the Jewish religion to some degree, possibly to the greatest extent he could as a non-Jew. His vision of the angel at about three in the afternoon likely means that he was following Jewish religious practices since that was a regular time of prayer for the Jews. And it is to Cornelius' credit that when an angel of God spoke to him, he didn't hesitate to do what he was told.

God Speaks: A Tale of Two Visions

Peter was following normal Jewish religious practices, among which was the strict adherence to the dietary restrictions spelled out in Leviticus 11. Many of the forbidden animals described there were included in the sheet suspended before Peter in his vision. Being told to kill and eat "unclean" animals shocked Peter.

The challenge to Peter's beliefs didn't end when the sheet disappeared. It was obviously no coincidence that Cornelius' servants appeared just as Peter's vision ended. Peter was thinking through the meaning of his vision when he was summoned to go to the house of a non-Jew. The servants said that an angel had told Cornelius to send for Peter to hear what he had to say.

And God made it clear to Peter that the servants' arrival was connected to what God was trying to teach him. God told him that the men were there, that he had sent them, and that Peter was to go with them.

Peter knew that the vision concerned much more than food.

The Jesus Connection

Peter took a huge risk in following God's leading to reach out to Cornelius and his family. Peter followed God's leading without hesitation because Jesus was the cornerstone of his life.

Peter set an example for us by taking advantage of an opportunity to tell someone unexpected about his faith. We dare not ignore that example; rather, we must be willing to tell anyone who is interested about what God has done for us through Jesus. Pray and ask God to show you how you can share your faith and God's love. You can write your prayer here.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS



Daily Challenge

This week, your child

learned that we can tell everyone about Jesus. Your child committed to one of the following Daily Challenges to tell others about Jesus. Help your child weave faith into life this week and follow through on the challenge!

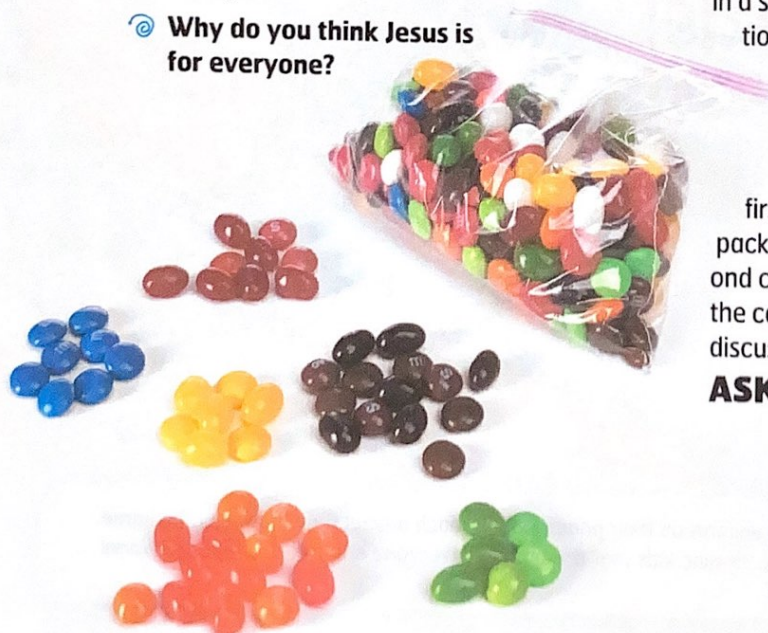
1. Tell a friend at school about Jesus—while sharing your lunch with him or her, too!
2. Tell each of your family members about Jesus and his love for them.
3. Take your neighbor some cookies with a note attached, telling him or her about Jesus' love.

Give your child a bag of colorful candy such as jelly beans or Skittles.

Let the child divide the candy into groups of color. Say that people used to think Jesus was for only the [pick a flavor] people. Have the child shake the candy together. Then say, "But Jesus is for everyone, so we can tell everyone about Jesus."

ASK ☉ What is your favorite flavor of candy?

☉ Why do you think Jesus is for everyone?



What I Learned Today...

Bible Time: This week's Bible passage (Acts 10:1-44) tells us that we can tell everyone about Jesus. This fascinating story starts with Cornelius, a Roman centurion, getting a message from God. Peter got word by way of a vision. Also Peter saw a sheet come down from heaven filled with all the unclean animals the Jews were supposed to avoid eating. Peter now realized that God doesn't care what we eat, what we look like, or where we live. It is more important to God that Peter told all the people that Jesus is for everyone!

Key Verse: The Holy Spirit will teach you (adapted from John 14:26).



Purchase two different flavors and colors of cake mixes.

Help your child mix each one in a separate bowl, according to the directions. Then help the child pour $\frac{2}{3}$ of one batch into a 9x13-inch cake pan and pour $\frac{1}{3}$ of the other into the center. Using a knife, let your child swirl the last cake mix throughout the first cake mix's batter. Bake according to package directions. (You could make a second cake using the rest of the mixes.) After the cake bakes, enjoy the swirling snack and discuss the following questions:

ASK ☉ What different mixes did we use in the snack?

☉ What does Jesus think of differences?

☉ Why can we tell everyone about Jesus?