

Welcome to the Family

Acts 10; The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 132-142

Have you ever had a dream that made you wonder about something? Some dreams are strange. Some are silly. But some make us think.

Peter had a “dream” that really wasn’t a dream at all. It was a vision, and it made him think about something important.

Cornelius was an officer in the Roman army. He was also a man who loved God. Everyone in his house worshiped God. Because he loved God so much, he often talked to Him in prayer.

One day, about three o’clock in the afternoon, Cornelius was praying. Suddenly an angel stood before him and called his name. Cornelius was surprised, and a bit afraid.

“God hears your prayers,” the angel said. “And He sees that you love Him so much that you share with the poor. God wants you to send for a man named Peter. He is staying in the home of Simon, a man who lives by the sea. God wants you to listen to what Peter has to tell you.” Then the angel was gone.

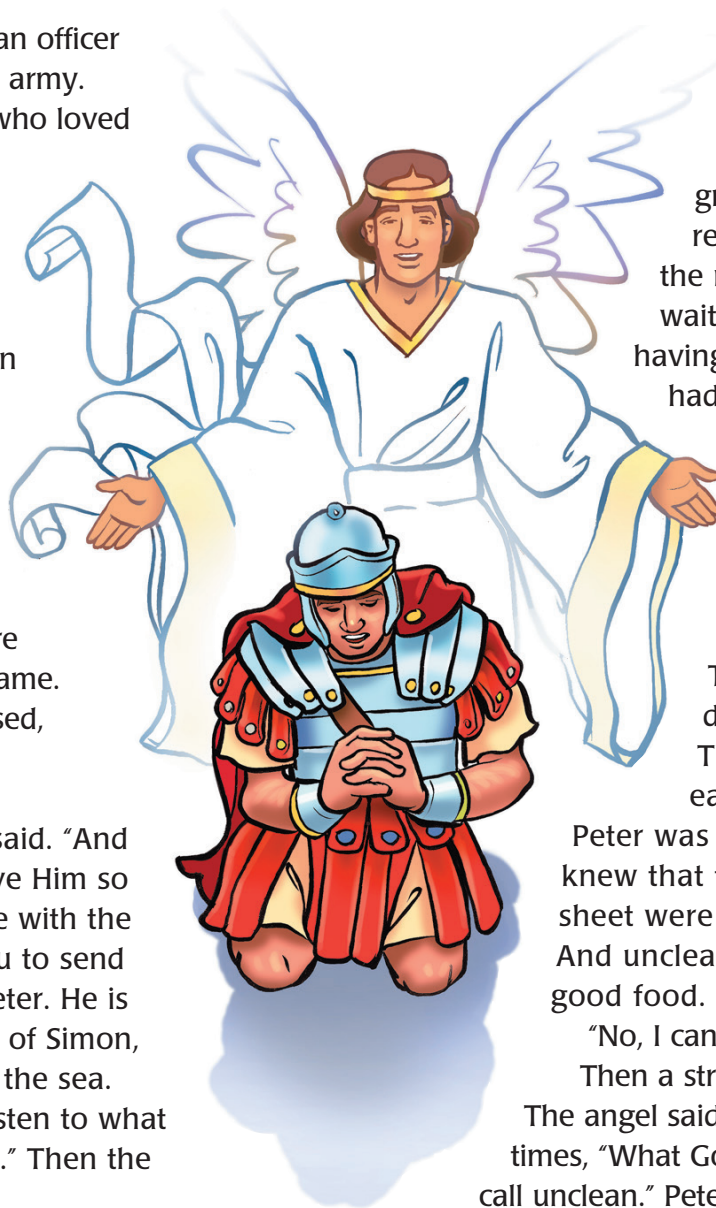
Cornelius immediately called two servants and a trusted soldier friend and sent them off to find Peter. While they were gone, Cornelius talked to everyone in his household, to his neighbors, and friends. He invited them to come to his house to hear a special message from God.

About the same time, Peter was on the roof of Simon’s house. Peter was hungry, but dinner wasn’t ready yet. He had gone to the roof to pray while he waited. Suddenly he was having a vision too. The angel had left Cornelius’s home and come to bring a message to Peter too. Peter’s message was an unusual vision about all kinds of animals in a sheet. The sheet was being let down in front of him. The angel told him to eat one of the animals.

Peter was very hungry, but he knew that the animals in that sheet were all unclean animals. And unclean animals were not good food.

“No, I can’t do that,” he said.

Then a strange thing happened. The angel said very clearly, three times, “What God has made clean, don’t call unclean.” Peter knew then that the



The Message

I invite others to join God's family by sharing His love.

Memory Verse

"God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right"

(Acts 10:34, 35, NIV).

message was not about eating unclean animals. Suddenly he heard knocking on the gate to Simon's house.

"Is there a man here named Peter?" three men asked the servant at the door.

And the angel said to Peter, "Three men are downstairs looking for you. Get up and go downstairs. Go with them. God is sending you to them."

Then Peter knew what God was telling him—Jesus died for everyone. Peter knew that

he should tell the good news about Jesus to all people. To everyone—even if they did not look or act just as he did. Even if they were from another country.

Peter went downstairs and asked the men to spend the night. In the morning he went with them to Cornelius's home. Cornelius had all his friends and relatives there waiting for Peter. He believed that Peter had been sent by God to teach them about Jesus. Peter didn't have any more doubts. Jesus had died for everyone. Everyone must hear the good news. No one must be left out!



S A B B A T H

PRAY

God spoke to Peter when he was on a rooftop praying. If possible, go with your family to a point where you can look out over your neighborhood. When you are there, say a prayer that the people living there will hear the good news about Jesus.

DO

Cornelius was known for helping people in need. Talk together as a family and decide how you can help someone this week.

DO

One way to invite people to join God's family is by giving them literature. Give some away today.



Cornelius was a centurion—a soldier in charge of 100 other soldiers.

S U N D A Y

READ

Write each word of your memory verse on a separate small piece of paper. Hold a dish towel by the four corners and put your memory verse words in it. Shake them up and then try to put them in the right order.

DO

Look in a dictionary or encyclopedia and see how many different nations there are in the world. How many can you name?

PRAY

Say a prayer that God's good news will spread around the world.

M O N D A Y

ASK

Ask an adult to help you see how many different combinations of coins you can use to make a dollar. Does the value change because it is made up of different coins? Does God put a different value on each of us?

DO

Look in a dictionary and find the meaning of *centurion*. Did God place the same value on Cornelius as on Peter?

PRAY

Pray that you will always treat everyone as a child of God.

T U E S D A Y

READ

At family worship read and discuss Leviticus 11:1-22 to discover why Peter thought the animals in the sheet were unclean. Clean and unclean animals are also mentioned in Genesis 7:1-3. Why do you think there are more clean animals?

DO

Make a poster showing some clean animals and unclean animals.

PRAY

Pray that you will be kind to everyone.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO

Look at a Bible map and measure the distance from Joppa to Caesarea. How do you think Peter and the servants would have traveled from Joppa to Caesarea?

ASK

Ask an adult to help you measure the same distance from your house to a place you know.

PRAY

Pray that God will protect your family as you travel to school and work.

THURSDAY

DO Cornelius invited his family and friends to hear the good news. Make a list of your family and friends with whom you want to share the good news about Jesus. During family worship talk about ways you can do so.

DO Make an invitation from Cornelius to his friends. Can you use it to invite your friends to Sabbath School?

PRAY Pray that your friends will learn to love Jesus too.

FRIDAY

READ During family worship have someone read Acts 10 as the rest of the family acts out the story.

DO Say your memory verse for your family.

DO Light a candle. Turn out the lights. How much light does the candle give? Light more candles. What happens with each candle you light? How is this like sharing the good news with others?

SING Sing a favorite praise song before prayer.

Cornelius And Peter

PUZZLE

Directions: Help Cornelius understand the answer to his prayer by finding the one right path to Peter. Then copy the letters along that path onto the lines below.

