

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 254: PETER AND CORNELIUS
ACTS 10:1-8, 24-48

In the city of Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a Roman army officer in what was called the Italian Regiment, or Unit. He was a religious man. He and all the others who lived in his house were worshipers of the true God. He gave much of his money to help the poor people and always prayed to God. One afternoon about three o'clock, Cornelius had a vision. He clearly saw an angel from God coming to him and saying, "Cornelius!" Staring at the angel and feeling afraid, Cornelius said, "What do you want, sir?" The angel said to him, "God has heard your prayers and has seen your gifts to the poor. He remembers you and all you have done. Send some men now to the city of Joppa to get a man named Simon, who is also called Peter. He is staying with someone also named Simon, a leatherworker who has a house beside the sea." The angel who spoke to Cornelius left. Then Cornelius called two of his servants and a soldier. The soldier was a religious man, one of his close helpers. Cornelius explained everything to these three men and sent them to Joppa. The next day they came to the city of Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them and had already gathered his relatives and close friends at his house. When Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him. He fell down at Peter's feet and worshiped him. But Peter told him to get up. Peter said, "Stand up! I am only a man like you." Peter continued talking with Cornelius. Then Peter went inside and saw a large group of people gathered there. Peter said to the people, "You understand that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit anyone who is not a Jew. But God has shown me that I should not consider anyone unfit (which means not worthy) or say they are not pure. That's why I didn't argue when your men asked me to come here. Now, please tell me why you sent for me." Cornelius said, "Four days ago, I was praying in my house. It was at this same time--three o'clock in the afternoon. Suddenly there was someone standing before me wearing bright, shiny clothes. He said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and has seen your gifts to the poor. He remembers you and all you have done. So send some men to the city of Joppa and tell Simon Peter to come. He is staying with another man named Simon, a leatherworker who has a house beside the sea.' So I sent for you immediately. It was very good of you to come here. Now we are all here before God to hear everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us." Peter began to speak: "I really understand now that God does not

consider some people to be better than others. He accepts anyone who worships him and does what is right. It is not important what nation they come from. God has spoken to the people of Israel. He sent them the Good News that peace has come through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all people. "You know what has happened all over Judea. It began in Galilee after John told the people they needed to be baptized. You know about Jesus from Nazareth. God made him the Messiah by giving him the Holy Spirit and power. Jesus went everywhere doing good for people. He healed those who were ruled by the devil, showing that God was with him. "We saw all that Jesus did in Judea and in Jerusalem. But he was killed. They put him on a cross made of wood. But on the third day after his death, God raised him to life and let him be seen openly. He was not seen by everyone, but only by us, the ones God had already chosen to be witnesses. We ate and drank with him after he was raised from death. "Jesus told us to go and speak to the people. He told us to tell them that he is the one God chose to be the Judge of all who are living and all who have died. Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name. All the prophets agree that this is true." While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening to his speech. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the Holy Spirit had been poured out as a gift also to people who were not Jews. They heard them speaking different languages and praising God. Then Peter said, "How can anyone object to these people being baptized in water? They have received the Holy Spirit the same as we did!" So Peter told them to baptize Cornelius and his relatives and friends in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

PETER AND CORNELIUS

(ACTS 10:1-8, 24-48)



"One afternoon about three o'clock, Cornelius had a vision. He clearly saw an angel from God coming to him and saying, "Cornelius!" Staring at the angel and feeling afraid, Cornelius said, "What do you want, sir?" The angel said to him, "God has heard your prayers and has seen your gifts to the poor. He remembers you and all you have done." **ACTS 9:40**

254. PETER AND CORNELIUS

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MEMORY VERSE:

"...Through His name whoever believes in Him shall receive forgiveness of sins." **ACTS 10:43**

Review Questions

True or False

1. There was a man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, or Unit.
2. Cornelius was a good man, who gave money to the poor, but he did not believe in God.
3. One day, about three o'clock, he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius!'
4. When he stared at the angel he was afraid and said, 'What is it, Lord?'
5. But the angel did not answer Cornelius.
6. The angel told Cornelius to go find Simon Peter and bring him to his house.

Questions

1. What did the angel tell Cornelius to do?
2. When Peter got to Cornelius' house, what did Peter say about people who were not Jews?
3. When Peter asked Cornelius why he had him come to his house, what did Cornelius tell Peter?
4. What did Peter tell all the people at Cornelius' house?
5. After Peter told everyone about Jesus, and how He was God's Messiah, what happened to Cornelius and all his friends and family?
6. After the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and all his friends and family, what did Peter tell the Jewish believers who came with him to do to Cornelius and his family and friends?

Lesson 254 Craft

Stick People

Supplies:

Sticks with forked twigs (plenty for 3-4 per child at least)

Yarn, Ribbon

Googley-eyes

Glue

Buttons

Pebbles

Glitter

Anything to glue or stick on the stick 'people' as decorations – you can even give them sheets of paper or construction paper to use & color & decorate for clothes.

Provide more than enough small branches with forked twigs for your students to make "stick people"; you may want extras for legs and arms, etc. Provide different colors of yarn for wrapping around the people for clothes; make ribbon, acorns, buttons, pebbles, wiggle eyes, and the like for decorations.

When your class is done, compare the finished products and explain how different each one is from the others. We are as diverse as this; all of the same materials, but each completely unique. [All Christians are in the family of God no matter how different we may be.](#)

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to love the body of Christ, even those who are different. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.