



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

July 25, 2021 – Peter’s Dream (Acts 10:1-48)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Belong

The Bible story today is about a man named Cornelius and a man named Peter. Cornelius was a Gentile who worshiped God and lived the way God wanted him to live. Peter was Jewish and lived the way God wanted him to by following the customs of the Jews. Peter did not eat animals that Jewish people did not eat.

One day Cornelius was visited by an angel. The angel told him to send for a man named Peter. The next day, Peter had a dream. A large sheet was coming down from heaven, and it was filled with animals that the Jewish people were not supposed to eat. A voice told Peter he could eat all the animals, but he said he would not. The voice told him that everything God made was good. Peter was confused. About that time, Cornelius’s men arrived and told Peter that Cornelius wanted to see him. So, Peter went.

Cornelius did as God asked him and sent for Peter. He wanted Peter to speak to his people. As Peter was talking to the people, his dream became clear to him. He realized the voice in the dream was telling him he should not put barriers up between people. All that God made was good. And all people are good because God made them. If eating or not eating certain foods kept you from accepting others, then you were acting against God’s will.

Because Cornelius and Peter listened and followed God, they came to understand they belonged together in God’s family. They were different, they had different spiritual gifts to share, but they belonged together.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- Peter’s Dream from Acts 10:1-48 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

10 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. ² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and

prayed to God regularly. ³ One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

⁴ Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.

The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. ⁸ He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

Peter's Vision

⁹ About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

¹⁴ "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

¹⁷ While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. ¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three^a men are looking for you. ²⁰ So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

²¹ Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

²² The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say." ²³ Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

Peter at Cornelius's House

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. ²⁴ The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

²⁷ While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸ He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me

that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

³⁰ Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me ³¹ and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. ³² Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.' ³³ So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹ "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues^[a] and praising God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." ⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

WATCH the Bible Story

- <https://youtu.be/glwyKzHf-9c>

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Belong – means to know you are accepted and included in God's family.

WONDER Together:

1. Was God trying to let Peter know that he could eat any animals?
2. Do you think Cornelius would have listened to the angel and sent for Peter if he did not believe in God?
3. Would Peter have listened to God speaking to him in a dream if he had not believed in God?

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 16 & 17). On page 17 (*and below*) you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

Jesus knew that in God's world, everyone belonged. It didn't matter if you were a woman or a Samaritan.

This week carry bottles of water in your car and when you see someone who is thirsty, share the water with that person. Tell that person that God loves her or him.

Pray that all people will feel a sense of belonging in God's world, and that you can help that happen.

Go in Peace

Blessing: Touch your child and say: **"May God show you ways to make all people feel like they belong."**

Prayer: Dear God, help me bring people together so they know we all belong to Your great big family. Amen.

Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)

Peter's Dream

Acts 10:1-48

An angel visited Cornelius. The angel said, "Send someone to get a man named Peter." So, Cornelius sent two servants and a soldier to get Peter.

The next day, Peter was sleeping and had a dream. Peter saw a big sheet coming down from heaven. On the sheet were animals that Peter was not supposed to eat. A voice said to Peter, "Peter, get up. You can have all these animals to eat."

Peter said, "No, God! It is unlawful to eat all those animals. They are unclean! I do not eat them!"

The voice said, "Do not think of anything that God makes as unclean. Everything God makes is good." Peter did not understand. Just then, the messengers from Cornelius arrived.

The men said, "Cornelius wants you to come to his house." Peter and the messengers walked to Cornelius's house. Cornelius was so glad to see Peter that he fell down at Peter's feet. Peter said, "Get up, Cornelius. I am no better than you. I am a man, just like you are a man. God told me in a dream that every person and every animal that God makes is good."



I wonder: How does it feel to know that God made you, and everyone else, good?

Color Sheet for all



Faith Word—Unit 2

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BELONG



Preschool Activity

Everything Is Good (Game)

Supplies: a towel and an assortment of stuffed animals

Spread out the towel and hold it up so it is like a parachute. Fill the “parachute” with an assortment of stuffed animals.

Say: In our bible story today, Peter dreams that it is okay to eat the animals in his dream because everything God makes is good.

Let's try and keep all our animals on the towel while we (walk or ripple it up and down), just like in Peter's dream.

- If a stuffed animal falls off, ask you child if that animal is good. When they answer yeas, as them why. Prompt them to answer, “Everything God makes is good.”

Early Elementary Activity

What Changes Perspective?

Supplies: Paper and pencil

Say: In our Bible story, Peter's perspective was changed by a dream from God.

Wonder: What do you think perspective means?

Say: A perspective is your opinion on something or your point of view. To change your perspective means to change the way you see things.

Wonder: What helps you change your perspective? Make a list!

Say: It looks like a lot of things can change our perspective.

Older Elementary Activity

What Changes Perspective?

Supplies: Paper and pencil

Say: In our Bible story, Peter's perspective was changed by a dream from God.

Wonder: What do you think perspective means?

Say: A perspective is your opinion on something or your point of view. To change your perspective means to change the way you see things.

Wonder: What helps you change your perspective? Make a list!

Say: It looks like a lot of things can change our perspective.



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

PETER & CORNELIUS

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

SHEET
CAESAREA
PETER
CORNELIUS
CENTURION
LEATHER TANNER

SIMON
PRAYER
YESHUA
HOLY SPIRIT
ROMAN
YAHWEH

ISRAELITES
DREAM
UNCLEAN
CLEAN
DISCIPLE
ANGEL