

**HomeWord**  
For Parents

**T**he first believers in the early church were Jews. Jesus was born into a Jewish family, and His apostles were Jewish and taught in the synagogues to the Jews. At this time, anyone who was not Jewish was considered a Gentile. Gentiles were despised by the Jews because of religious and cultural differences. Only the grace of God through faith could have motivated the Jews to bring the good news of Christ to the Gentiles.

We see this grace in Peter with Cornelius, a Roman centurion. Their meeting was orchestrated by God. Cornelius encountered an angel who told him to send messengers to look for Peter (Acts 10:1–5). Meanwhile, Peter also had a vision. In it, heaven opened and a sheet descended with all kinds of animals on it (Acts 10:11–12). These animals were considered “unclean” according to the Jewish laws, so Jews could not eat them (see Leviticus 20:25–26).

A voice (apparently the Lord’s) told Peter to kill and eat the animals. Peter said he could not. Then God said, “What God has cleansed you must not call common” (Acts 10:13–15). Peter pondered the meaning of the

vision after it happened three times.

About this time, Cornelius’s men arrived looking for Peter. They told him to come to meet Cornelius (Acts 10:22). Peter went, knowing the Lord was leading him (Acts 10:19–20). This was highly unusual as Jews would not associate with Gentiles. But Peter had learned from his vision of the unclean food. God had shown him that he should not call any man common, or unclean (Acts 10:15.)

Peter told Cornelius that God shows no partiality between people. But whoever fears God and works righteousness is accepted by Him (Acts 10:34–35). Then Peter spoke with Cornelius and his household about Jesus Christ—His life, death, and Resurrection (Acts 10:38–40). As he did, the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and all who were with him, and they believed in Jesus. Peter commanded that they be baptized in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:45, 10:48).

In this amazing providential meeting, God made it clear that He accepts EVERYONE who comes to Him in faith. And believers are, in fact, to preach to ALL nations! *Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.*

**OutWord** For Family Discussion

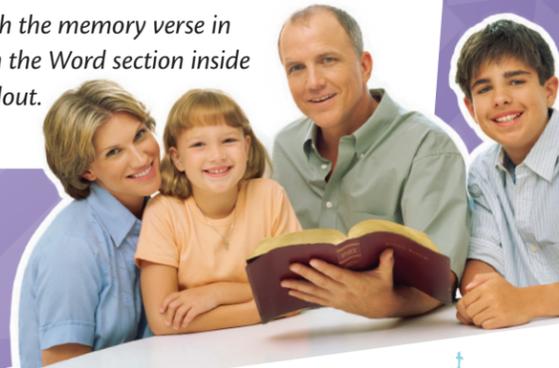
Suppose you heard someone say that the Old Testament is for the Jews, and the New Testament is for the Christians. **What could you say?**

*The whole Bible is God’s Word to everyone in the whole world. In the Old Testament, God revealed how He created the universe and made the earth ready for the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. It has the record of the first sin and the punishment for that sin. The Old Testament has the promise of the Savior who would come to make a way for man to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Then it shows the history of God’s people as it points to the coming Savior. The New Testament is the record of the life of the Savior, Jesus, and the beginning of His church. God put His Word together in such a way that the Old and New Testaments work together to give us everything we need to know to have eternal life with Him. The Jews and the Christians—and all people—need the whole Bible. We need to read and believe all of it! And we need to encourage everyone to do the same.*

**inWord**  
For Family Study

“Let your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; for Your law is my delight” (Psalm 119:77). God wants His Law to be the delight of your family. Teach it to them. Memorize it together.

*Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.*



# The Gospel Goes to the Gentiles

**KEY THEME**

- God sees all men as sinners in need of salvation.

**KEY PASSAGES**

- Matthew 28:19
- Acts 10:1–6, 10:11–15, 10:28, 10:34–35



What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- The Lord brought Cornelius, the Gentile centurion, and the Jewish Apostle Peter together to show that the gospel was not only for the Jews.
- God made it clear that He accepts EVERYONE who comes to Him in faith.

Answer these questions from today’s lesson.

- 1 What was the name of the Gentile centurion who had a vision from God?
- 2 What did Peter learn from his vision from God?
- 3 What did Cornelius and the others with him do when they heard the gospel?



