

HomeWord
For Parents

The 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 four-footed 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.*

The Gospel Goes to the Gentiles

 **Key Theme**

- The good news about Jesus is for everyone.

 **Key Passages**

- Acts 10:3–5, 10:28, 10:34–35

 **What You HEARD in the Word**

- The good news about Jesus is for everyone. It is for Jews and Gentiles. It is for ALL nations.

Ask your child these questions from today’s lesson.

- 1 What did Cornelius see?
- 2 Was Peter a Jew or Gentile?
- 3 Was Cornelius a Jew or Gentile?



 **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.

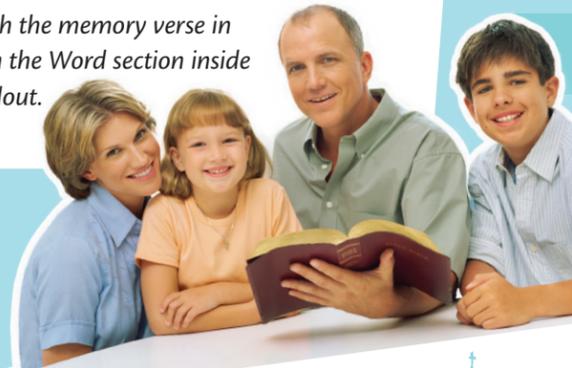
What could you say?

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.



Read the Word with Mom & Dad

Monday (Acts 10:3)
What did Cornelius see in a vision?

Tuesday (Acts 10:4)
How did Cornelius feel when he saw the angel of God?

Wednesday (Acts 10:5)
What did the angel tell Cornelius to do?

Thursday (Romans 10:13)
Who can be saved?

Friday (Romans 10:13)
Who can be saved by the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Saturday (Romans 1:16)
Do you know this verse? Can you sing the song to your family?

Learn the Word!

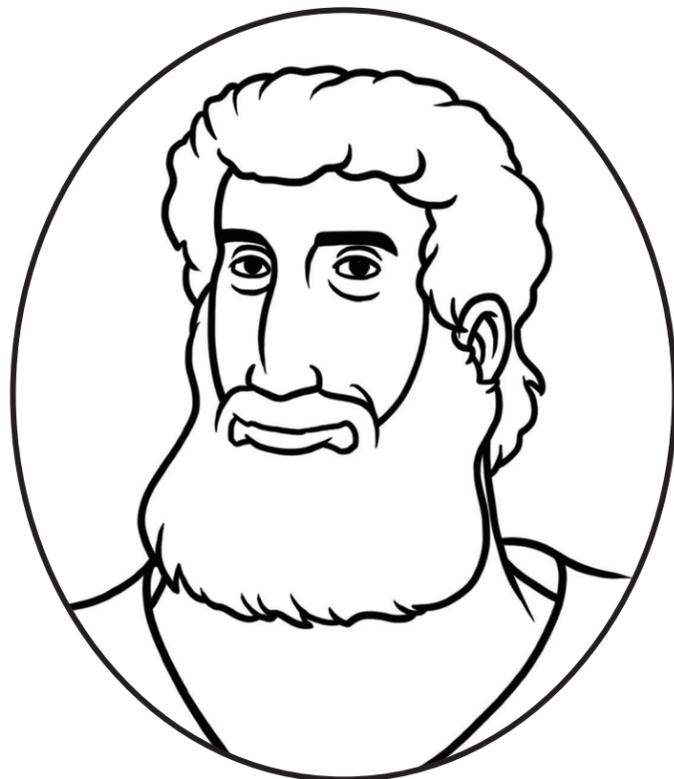
For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.
Romans 1:16a

The Gospel Is for Everyone!

God used the Jew Peter to tell the Gentile Cornelius about Jesus! The gospel is for everyone! Color the pictures. Tell your family what happened!

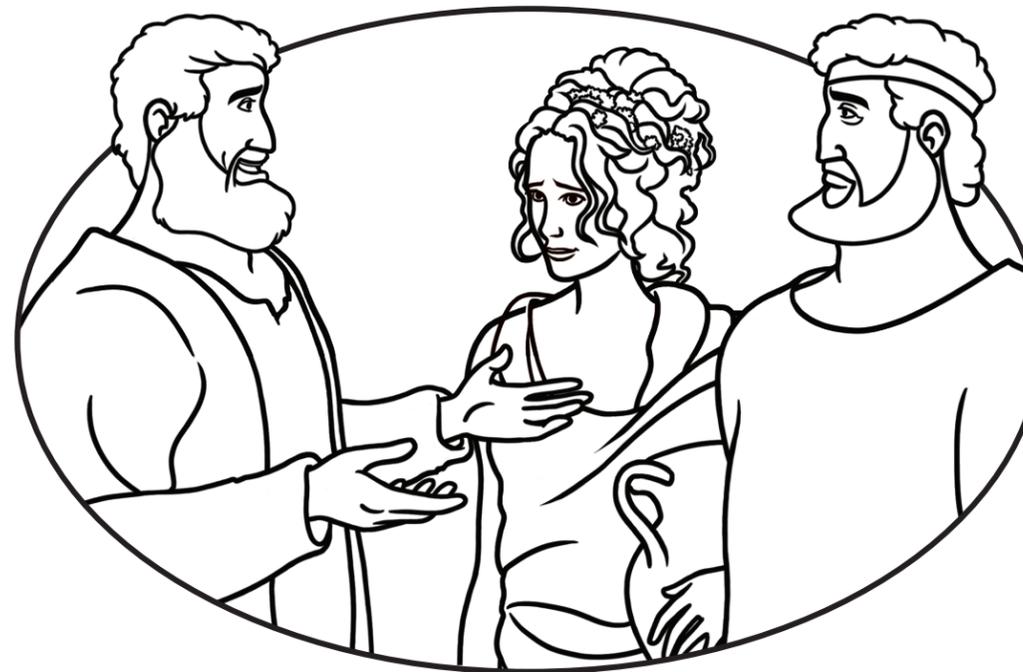


Cornelius was a Gentile.



Peter was a Jew.

Peter told Cornelius and his family about Jesus, and they believed. The gospel is for everyone.



Song Time!

**We should tell our friends about Jesus!
Sing this song with your family!**

Tell the Gospel News

(To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Oh, tell the gospel news.

(The farmer in the dell,)

Oh, tell the gospel news.

(The farmer in the dell,)

Jesus . . . He is alive!

(Hi-ho, the derry-o!)

Oh, tell the gospel news.

(The farmer in the dell,)

Christ gave His life for us.
He died upon the Cross,
So He could conquer sin and death,
And we can be with God!

We are free from sin.
We are free from death.
If we put our hope and trust—
Our hope and trust in Him!

LIVE the Word

with Johnny and His Dad

Hey, Dad! Can "really bad" people get to heaven? Is the gospel for them, too?



Well, Johnny, we are ALL really bad sinners in God's eyes. Because He is perfect and holy!



Oh! So everyone needs to hear about Jesus, right?



SNEAK PEEK

Come next week ready for a fun review of what we've learned over the last 5 weeks.