



LESSON 3

REFERENCES: ACTS 10; THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, PP. 132-142.

Two Men and a Strange Message

Who preaches in your church each Sabbath? Peter was used to preaching about Jesus only to the Jews. But God had other plans for him.

One afternoon a good man, Cornelius, knelt in prayer in his room. Although he was not Jewish, he believed in God and prayed often. Suddenly an angel stood in back of him. Cornelius was frightened. “What do

you want?” he whispered.

“God has heard your prayers,” the angel said kindly. “And God wants you to send your servants to Joppa to find a man named Simon Peter. Ask him to come and visit you.” Then the angel disappeared. Cornelius immediately obeyed.

The next day, as Cornelius’s servants neared Joppa, Peter



Memory Verse

“God does not show favoritism.”

ACTS 10:34, NIV.

The Message

God’s children can be friends to everyone.

climbed to the flat rooftop of the house where he was staying. Peter was hungry. He decided to pray until it was time to eat. But suddenly Peter had a vision. He saw a big sheet coming down from heaven, filled with all kinds of animals and birds. A voice said, “Kill the animals and eat them, Peter.”

“I can’t do that, Lord!” Peter exclaimed. “I have never eaten unclean food.”

Peter heard the voice again. “God has made these things clean. Don’t call them unclean.”

Peter saw the same vision two more times, and he was puzzled. Then the Holy Spirit interrupted his thoughts. “Three men are downstairs looking for you. Go with them. I have sent them to you.”

Peter went right downstairs and met Cornelius’s three messengers. “I am the man you want,” he said.

So the next day Peter, some friends, and the messengers journeyed to Cornelius’s house. As he walked, Peter thought about his vision. He finally understood what it meant.

When they arrived, they found a house full of people. Peter said to Cornelius, “God has shown me that He loves all people. And He has sent me to tell you the good news about Jesus.”

Peter then taught the people everything he knew about Jesus. And they believed.

As Peter was talking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all the people, and they began to praise God loudly.

Cornelius, his family, and his friends were soon baptized.

Peter had learned something very important: God loves everybody, no matter what language they speak or what color their skin is or where they live. And that is what God wants us to know too.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story, and review the memory verse:

God Point upward.

does not Shake head no and wag finger.

show favoritism. . Touch middle finger to chin.

Acts 10:34 Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Read selected parts of Acts 10 with your child. Ask: What would you think if you saw a sheet with animals in it? Who was happy at the end of the story? Why? Whom does God love? Whom can we love?

Before prayer, sing “Jesus Loves the Little Children.”

MONDAY

Make a collage (lots of old magazine pictures glued together on a piece of paper) of faces of people from around the world. Or look at pictures from a book. Talk to your child about God’s love for all people, no matter what they look like or where they live.

TUESDAY

Together, plan and make a special supper with a food theme



from another country (Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Indian, etc.).

WEDNESDAY

Encourage your child to share the animal mask made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Peter and Cornelius. (Or help them make a mask from a paper plate [ideas: horse, cat, dog, etc.])



THURSDAY

Take a 15-minute walk, and explain that it took Peter all day to walk 33 miles from Joppa to Cornelius’s house. Talk about the difference between one mile and 33 miles. (Relate the distance to something they know.) Ask: Would you like to walk that far?

FRIDAY

As a family, act out the Bible story. Gather toy stuffed or plastic animals and a sheet. Have your child tell about the animals. Remember to have Peter and Cornelius greet each other with open arms as an act of friendship and acceptance.

Ask Jesus to help you and your family love everyone.