



# The Gentiles Receive the Gospel

*Acts 10:1–11:18*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will rejoice that God saves all people who place their faith in His Son.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Find evidence from Acts 10–11 that proves God wanted Gentiles to be saved.
- Explain why God made certain foods unclean for Israel and then He made those foods clean again.
- Describe the events before and after Peter's preaching in Cornelius' home.
- Tell why the Jewish believers were upset with Peter.

## KEY VERSE

“When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.’” —*Acts 11:18*

## APPLICATION

- Thank God for choosing to save Gentiles.
- Do not be prideful that you belong to a certain group.
- Submit to God's plans even when they are different from your own.

## NEXT WEEK

*Acts 12:1–24*

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

# Teacher Planning Sheet

## PREPARE

**Objectives/Truths** to cover this week

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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### **Personal Application**

*As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to...*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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*Three ways students need to apply this passage are...*

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- \_\_\_\_\_
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### Materials Needed:

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## POINT

*Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.*

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- \_\_\_\_\_

## PROCLAIM

*Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.*

### **Presentation Ideas**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### **Praise/Music Ideas**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## PRACTICE

*Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.*

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- \_\_\_\_\_

## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

#### Introduction

Before His ascension, Jesus declared that the apostles would be His witnesses in “Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). By the time of Stephen’s death in Acts 7, the Gospel had spread throughout Jerusalem. Because of the persecution which followed Stephen’s death, the believers scattered throughout Judea and Samaria and “went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). The church continued to grow during the persecution. The most dramatic growth was the welcoming of believing Samaritans into the church (Acts 8). By the time of Saul’s conversion, Luke could summarize the state of the church: “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified” (Acts 9:31).

Despite the salvation of many Jews and Samaritans, the extent of God’s plan for the church had not yet been revealed. The Lord Jesus had already declared that the Gospel would spread “to the end of the earth,” but the Jews did not understand that Gentiles would be among those who were saved. (The only Gentiles in the church were those who had “become” Jews, proselytes who submitted to circumcision and Old Testament laws.) The Jews considered the presence of Gentiles defiling. Jews would not enter into a Gentile home, would not eat food prepared by Gentiles, and would shake the dust off their feet after leaving Gentile land. Before Jews would welcome Gentiles into the church, God had to teach the Jews that He had also “granted to the Gentiles repentance to life” (Acts 11:18). In Acts 10:1–11:18, the longest narrative in Acts, Luke records how Gentiles received God’s grace and were welcomed into the church.

#### The Preparation for God’s Grace (Acts 10:1–33)

The Lord’s plan to bring Gentiles into the church began with His sending an angel to Cornelius. Cornelius was a centurion, a commander in the Roman army over one-hundred soldiers. Cornelius lived in Caesarea, a city along the Mediterranean coast which was the capital of the Roman province of Judea. Luke describes Cornelius as a man who feared God. Although still needing to repent (11:18), to have his sins forgiven (10:43), and to be saved (11:14), Cornelius had stopped worshiping idols and believed in the God of Israel. He demonstrated his faith by giving money to the Jewish people and offering prayers to God (10:2). Unlike proselytes, Cornelius had not submitted to circumcision and did not follow Jewish dietary laws.

The angel came to Cornelius at 3:00 p.m. (“the ninth hour”), a traditional time for Jewish prayer (10:3), and instructed him what to do. The angel told the terrified Cornelius that God had remembered Cornelius’ prayers and the alms he gave (10:4). The angel gave Cornelius instructions to send men to Joppa, the main port

city of Judea, to find Simon Peter and bring him to Caesarea. The angel said that Peter could be found “lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea” (10:6). (In Acts 9:36–42, Peter went to Joppa to raise Dorcas from the dead.) The angel promised Cornelius that Peter would tell him what he must do (10:6) and how he could be saved (11:14). Cornelius was anxious to learn God’s command and quickly sent two servants and a devout soldier (likely also a believer in the God of Israel) to Joppa to find Peter (10:7–8).

While the three men sent by Cornelius were on their way toward the tanner’s house, the Lord prepared Peter for Gentile salvation by giving him a vision. When Peter received the vision, he was praying on the roof while he waited for a meal to be prepared in the house below (10:9–10). In the vision, Peter saw a sheet descend from heaven, filled with “all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air” (10:11). Peter heard a voice which commanded him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat” (10:13). Although Peter was hungry (10:10, he insisted that he could not eat because he had “never eaten anything common or unclean” (10:14). In Leviticus 11, God gave the Israelites strict restrictions about what animals were clean and acceptable as food and which were unclean and therefore forbidden. God commanded the Israelites not to eat animals which He had made unclean because God wanted His people to be holy and separate from other people (Leviticus 20:25–26). Such restrictions protected the Israelites from the perverting influence of idolatrous nations. Because Peter had obeyed God’s law throughout his life, he was unwilling to defile himself by eating unclean animals. The voice corrected Peter: “What God has cleansed you must not call common” (Acts 10:15). After Peter had the same vision three times, Peter “wondered within himself what this vision that he had seen meant” (Acts 10:16). Peter did not understand that God was breaking down dietary restrictions intended to keep Jews and Gentiles apart. It is likely that that “what God has cleansed” refers not only to unclean animals but Gentiles symbolized by those animals. Jews and Gentiles could not participate in God’s church together until God abolished such laws of separation.

While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the three men from Cornelius came looking for Peter (Acts 10:17–18; 11:11). The Holy Spirit directed Peter to accompany the men (Acts 10:19). He encouraged Peter, “Go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them” (Acts 10:20; 11:12). When Peter saw the three Gentiles downstairs, perhaps he began to understand the vision from the Lord. Peter learned from the men how Cornelius had been “divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house and to hear words from you” (Acts 10:22). Not only had the Lord commanded the Jewish Peter, but He had also commanded the Gentile Cornelius. Although no Old Testament law forbade Jews from eating with Gentiles, most Jews would never have invited Gentiles into their homes, especially one of the hated Roman soldiers. Peter threw aside Jewish custom and invited the men to stay the night (Acts 10:23).

Peter, the three men sent by Cornelius, and six of the brethren left for Joppa the next morning (10:23; 11:12). The next day, they arrived at Cornelius’ home where Peter must have been surprised to not only find Cornelius waiting eagerly to learn how to be saved (11:14), but also Cornelius’ “relatives and close friends” (10:24). Peter explained that he had come because God taught him not to “call any man common or unclean” (10:28). Even though it was “unlawful” for a “Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation,” Peter went against his Jewish culture and obeyed God (10:28–29). Cornelius similarly explained that he had followed God’s will. He related how an angel had come to him four days earlier and told him to send for Peter (10:30–32). Now that Peter had arrived with God’s Word, Cornelius confessed to Peter his willingness “to hear all the things

commanded you by God" (10:33). Both men had been divinely directed to this particular meeting.

### **The Experience of God's Grace (Acts 10:34–48)**

Surrounded by both Jews and Gentiles, Peter began by announcing what God had recently taught him: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality" (10:34). Peter had learned that God accepts "in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness" (10:35). Regardless of whether someone was Jew or Gentile, God was willing to receive whoever humbled himself before God. Peter was not suggesting that Cornelius was accepted by God because of his righteous works. Instead, he was emphasizing God's prerogative in working in whomever He wanted. God had already begun to work in Cornelius, convincing him that He is the one true God. Because God "shows no partiality," God sent Peter to proclaim the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Because salvation is only found in the name of Jesus, Peter proclaimed Christ to the Gentiles. God first sent his word to the "children of Israel," but Jesus is not just Lord of Israel but "Lord of all" (10:36). Because of the Gospel's spread, Peter could confidently say that the Gentiles already knew the word proclaimed throughout Judea and about Jesus' ministry and miracles (10:37–38). In addition to what the Gentiles had already heard, Peter testified to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection (10:39–40). Peter particularly emphasized his own role as a chosen witness to Jesus' bodily resurrection. He was among those with whom Jesus ate and drank after His resurrection (10:41). Peter faithfully fulfilled his commission to "testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead" (10:42). After revealing the sobering truth that Jesus will judge those present, Peter promised that "whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins" (10:43). Although all deserve to be judged, any who places their faith in Christ will be forgiven.

When Cornelius and the other Gentiles heard Peter proclaim the Gospel, they believed in Christ and their sins were forgiven. The fact that they had become true believers was evidenced when the "Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word" (10:44). The outpouring of the Holy Spirit proved that the Gentiles belonged to God (Romans 8:9). It also proved that the Gentiles had been welcomed into the church, the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). When the Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter heard the Gentiles "speak in tongues and magnify God" (Acts 10:46), they could not deny the miracle of what had happened. They were astonished "because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also" (Acts 10:45). Like the Jews who had repented and believed in Jesus, the Gentiles were "baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:46–48). Both through the internal work of the Spirit and the external rite of baptism, the Gentiles were brought into the church. Following their baptism, Peter stayed with the new believers for a few days after their conversion (10:48).

### **The Acceptance of God's Grace (11:1–18)**

When the account of the Gentiles' conversion spread to Jerusalem, the Jewish believers (and perhaps the other apostles) were critical of Peter's involvement (11:1–2). When Peter returned to Jerusalem, "those of the circumcision," a term which referred to the Jewish believers (10:45), "contended with him, saying 'You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!'" (11:3). Instead of rejoicing at God's salvation, they were angry that Peter had set aside the Jewish traditions by eating with uncircumcised men.

Peter defended his actions by retelling how God had worked in the events that led up to the Gentiles' faith. He began by describing his vision and relating how God

taught him through the vision not to call unclean what God had cleansed (11:4–10). He next told how the Holy Spirit directed him to go with the three men (11:11–12). (The presence of the six other Jews was an important witness to God’s work among the Gentiles.) Peter then related how an angel had given directions to Cornelius and had promised him that Peter would tell him how to be saved (11:13–14). The Holy Spirit again revealed His will by falling upon the Gentiles, just as he had fallen on the Jewish believers “at the beginning” (a reference to Pentecost) (11:15). Peter understood that denying God’s salvation of the Gentiles would be like trying to “withstand God” since God had given the Gentile believers the “same gift” of the Spirit as the Jews had received (11:17). Since God accepted the Gentiles into the church, Peter had no choice but to do the same.

When the Jewish believers heard Peter’s careful testimony to how God had saved the Gentiles, they rightly “became silent” (11:18). God had given visions, sent angels, and outpoured His Spirit. His choice of the Gentiles was undeniable. Without any grounds to complain or criticize, the Jewish believers “glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted Gentiles repentance to life’” (11:18). In the upcoming years, the church would go through more difficulties in understanding the relationship between Jewish and Gentile Christians, but it could never deny that God had brought Gentiles into the church.

### **Conclusion**

In Ephesians 2:11–13, Paul reminds the believers how amazing it is that God chose to extend salvation to the Gentiles. He reminds the Gentiles that they “were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12). The Gentiles had absolutely no hope of salvation. But because of God’s rich mercy and unfathomable wisdom, he chose to bring those who were “far off...near by the blood of Christ” (2:13). Praise be to God who eternally planned to incorporate Gentiles into the body of Christ through the preaching of the Gospel!

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.”  
—Psalm 78:1*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.

### Review Questions

What was Saul known for doing to Christians?

*He was known to persecute Christians. He would find them and even drag them out of their house and put them in prison.*

What relationship did Saul have with God?

*He thought he was helping God but he was actually an enemy of God.*

What happened on the road to Damascus?

*While Saul was on the road there was suddenly a bright light from heaven. Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice which spoke to him.*

What did the voice say?

*The voice said, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” (9:4). Because Saul was persecuting the church he was also persecuting God.*

What happened to Saul after he spoke with Jesus?

*Saul was unable to see.*

Who did God send to talk with Saul?

*God sent a man named Ananias to talk with Saul. When Ananias touched Saul scales fell from his eyes so that he could see again.*

What did the Jews want to do to Saul?

*They wanted to kill Saul because he now preached Jesus Christ.*

### Difficult Concepts

**Gentile:** A Gentile is any person who is not a Jew. Gentile is a term for a group of people who were of a different race and religion than Jews. Refer to races your children know of, such as Hispanic or Asian, to explain the concept of “Gentiles.” Religion was a crucial way Jews were different than Gentiles. Explain how religion defined who the Jews were by discussing differences in cultures today, such as unique foods or celebrations. For instance, July 4th is an American holiday that is special to us, but not to people in other countries. All Jews believed basically the same thing, and Gentiles were people who did not believe those same things. Gentiles were part of a different family and they believed differently than Jewish people.

**Does God hear the prayers of lost people?** In the Bible, God promises only to hear the prayers of believers. Lost people are at war with God, so if they pray it is often because they want to get something from God and not because they love Him. However, God hears everything, so He certainly knows what lost people pray about. If He chooses to answer, it would only be because He is very gracious and

kind. Ask the students if their parents buy them clothes. Do their parents buy clothes for other children? They could, but they don't have to. If they did, it would be an exceptional act of kindness.

**Vision:** A vision is like a dream. Explain to the students that before the Bible was written, God talked to people in dreams sometimes. Peter saw the sheet and heard God talking, but nobody else could.

**Unclean Animals:** In the Old Testament, God said the Jews could eat certain animals but not others. The animals that the Jews could eat and use to sacrifice to God were called clean, and the others were unclean. There was nothing wrong with the unclean animals, but God wanted His people to obey Him. Pigs, snakes, and eagles are all examples of unclean animals.

**Centurion:** A centurion was an important Roman soldier who led 100 men. A centurion was like a general in the United States army. He gave the orders and made important decisions in battle.

**Pentecost:** Pentecost was a Jewish celebration. All the Jews would go to Jerusalem to thank God for their new crops. Pentecost means "fiftieth," because the celebration was held 50 days after the Passover. Pentecost is a special term for Christians, too, because at the first Pentecost after Jesus went back to Heaven the Holy Spirit came to live inside Christians. The first Pentecost is when the Church began.

### **Favorites**

Discuss with students what their favorite things are. Explain that we have favorites but God does not have favorites when it comes to people. He loves people all around the world and wants them all to be saved.

### **The Family of God**

Create a symbol for Jews and another for Gentiles. These symbols could be as simple as "J" and "G" or they could be a picture that the students would understand. On a large map in the room place many of the Jewish symbols around Jerusalem. Next scatter many Gentile symbols around the rest of the map. Explain to the children that God does not only love Jewish people but He gave them His word first. They were to pass God's word to their children and to all nations. God wants the Gentiles of every nation to be part of His family.

### **Missions**

Invite several missionaries into the class from different parts of the world. Ask them to wear the country's native dress and bring several objects that the students might be interested in. Ask the missionaries to explain how they share the gospel with the different kinds of people. Ask them to explain that they went to these people because God loves them just like He loves us.

### **Clean and Unclean**

Bring in many different stuffed animals, both clean and unclean. Review with the students what made the animals clean or unclean. Have the students separate the animals into groups of both clean and unclean animals.

### **Don't Become Unclean**

Create cards with the words "Clean" and "Unclean." Pass the cards out to the students and ask them to divide up into two separate groups without touching each other as fast as they can. Any of the "clean" students who touch an "unclean" student become unclean.



### **A Court of Law**

For the older students, set up a court scene scenario. Go through the evidence of why the Gentiles should be allowed into the church. This role-play can even have layers and a judge.

### **Clean and Unclean Snacks**

At the beginning of snack time (before the lesson), the teacher will separate the snacks (cookies, crackers, etc) into two piles, and designate one of them “clean” to be eaten now, and the other pile as “unclean” and not to be eaten. Teacher may make this designation verbally or put signs over the plates. After the lesson, the teacher can now designate the unclean pile as clean and share them with the class to be eaten.

## **PROCLAIM THE TRUTH**

*“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.” —Psalm 78:4*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

### **Bible Lesson**

#### **Passage Outline**

The Preparation for God’s Grace (Acts 10:1–33)

The Experience of God’s Grace (Acts 10:34–48)

The Acceptance of God’s Grace (Acts 11:1–18)

#### **Reading of the Text**

Read Acts 10:1–11:18.

#### **Introduction**

Have you ever followed some sort of map or instruction book, only to have it not make sense while you are reading it? Although the instructions may seem a little odd or different at first, they generally always proves right and gets you to where you need to go. The Jews in today’s lesson experience a similar event. For years God’s plan of salvation had only involved the people of Israel. But in Acts 10–11 the Jews see God’s plan of salvation in a way that they would have never expected. To see what God revealed regarding the Gospel, let us now look at Acts 10:1–11:18.

### Lead-off Questions (LOQs)

**LOQ:** Who is this Cornelius that we see at the beginning of today's lesson?

**Answer:** Cornelius was a centurion, commander in the Roman army of over one hundred men. Luke writes that Cornelius was a well-respected man throughout the whole city of Caesarea where he lived. Even though Cornelius was not a true Jew, but a Gentile, he still feared God. He prayed often and gave generously to both the Lord and others who were in need.

**LOQ:** How did the Lord's plan for bringing the Gentiles into His church begin?

**Answer:** The Lord's plan to bring Gentiles into the church began with His sending an angel to Cornelius. During one of his daily prayers, Cornelius became terrified when he saw an angel in a vision. Because Cornelius knew that this was angel of God, he asked the Lord what it was he wanted.

**LOQ:** What does the angel say to Cornelius in his vision?

**Answer:** The angel told the terrified Cornelius that God had heard his prayers and remembered the alms he gave (10:4). The angel then gave Cornelius instructions to send some of his men to the city of Joppa. God's answer to Cornelius' prayers was the instructions to go and find Peter the apostle and bring him to Caesarea. After telling him exactly where he could find Peter, the angel then promised Cornelius that Peter would tell him what he must do(10:6) and how he could be saved (11:14). Cornelius was anxious to learn God's command and quickly sent two servants and a devout soldier to Joppa to find Peter (10:7-8).

**LOQ:** How does God prepare Peter for the salvation of the Gentiles?

**Answer:** While Cornelius' men were on their way to Peter's house, the Lord also began preparing Peter for Gentile salvation by giving him a vision. In the vision, Peter saw a sheet descend from heaven, filled with "all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air" (10:11). Peter then heard a voice which commanded him: "Rise, Peter: kill and eat" (10:13).

**LOQ:** Why does Peter have a hard time obeying God's instructions given in the vision?

**Answer:** Even though Peter was hungry, he insisted that he could not eat because he had "never eaten anything common or unclean" (10:14). Peter understood the animals he saw in the vision to be unclean. He knew that Jews had been commanded by God not to eat such animals. Because Peter had obeyed God's law throughout his life, he was unwilling to defile himself by eating unclean animals.

**LOQ:** Why had God made certain foods unclean for Israel in the past?

**Answer:** Back in the Old Testament (Lev. 11), hundred years before Peter, God had given the Israelites strict restrictions about what animals were unclean and acceptable as food and which were unclean and therefore forbidden. God commanded the Israelites not to eat animals which He had made unclean because God wanted His people to be holy and separate from other people (Lev. 20:25-26). Such restrictions were meant to protect Israel from the influence of other nations who did not worship God. These nations were known as the Gentiles.

**LOQ:** How does God correct Peter's unwillingness to obey?

**Answer:** The voice in the vision corrected Peter: "What God has cleansed you must not call common" (Acts 10:15). What used to be considered unclean, God was making clean. God was now breaking down those restrictions that had been meant to keep Jews and Gentiles apart. God's plan of salvation was no longer meant for just the Jews. God was now offering salvation to the Gentiles also. This was all so new to Peter that he had a hard time understanding what it meant.

**LOQ:** What was God's next instruction for Peter?

**Answer:** While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the three men from Cornelius came looking for Peter. The Holy Spirit then directed Peter to accompany the men that were about to approach the gate to his house. God had encouraged Peter that the men had been sent by Him and that he was to go with them. As Peter obeyed God and approached the gate, the men began to tell Peter all of Cornelius' vision. That he had been instructed by a holy angel to bring the apostle Peter to his home and to listen to all that he had to say. Not only had the Lord commanded the Jewish Peter, but He had also commanded the Gentile, Cornelius.

**LOQ:** What did Peter find when he arrived at the house of Cornelius?

**Answer:** When Peter had arrived at Cornelius' house, he saw that a large group had gathered there to meet him. Cornelius, along with all those who were associated with him, were eager to learn how to be saved. Each of them were willing to hear what the Jewish Peter had to say. Even though it was "unlawful" for a "Jewish man to keep company" with a Gentile, Peter went against his Jewish culture and obeyed God (10:28–29). Peter had remembered how God had just taught him to consider no man or animal unclean (10:28).

**LOQ:** What does Peter begin telling those who had gathered at the house of Cornelius?

**Answer:** Surrounded by both Jews and Gentiles, Peter began announcing what God had recently taught him. Peter had learned that God desires to accept any who would fear Him and walk uprightly. Regardless of whether someone was Jew or Gentile, God was willing to receive whoever humbled himself before God.

**LOQ:** What does Peter tell Cornelius' household about Christ?

**Answer:** Peter understood that he had been sent by God to proclaim the saving power of Jesus Christ. Because salvation is only found in the name of Jesus, Peter proclaimed Christ to the Gentiles. He told of how Christ had come to the earth, died on the cross, and was then raised from the dead by the power of God to judge all who were on the earth. After revealing the sobering truth that Jesus will judge those present, Peter promised that "whoever believes in Him will receive the forgiveness of sins" (10:43). Although all deserve to be judged, any who places their faith in Christ will be forgiven.

**LOQ:** How do we know that the Gentiles became true believers and followers of Christ?

**Answer:** When Cornelius and the other Gentiles heard Peter proclaim the Gospel, they believed in Christ and their sins were forgiven. The fact that they had become true believers was evidenced when the Holy Spirit fell upon them

(10:44). The outpouring of the Holy Spirit proved that the Gentiles now belonged to God (Romans 8:9) and were apart of the church. When the Jews there present saw the Gentiles speaking in tongues and glorifying God, they could not deny the miracle that had taken place. Like the Jews who had repented and believed in Jesus, the Gentiles had been baptized in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:46–48).

**LOQ:** How do the Jews in Jerusalem respond to the good news regarding the Gentiles?

**Answer:** When the news of the Gentile’s experience had spread to Jerusalem, the Jewish believers were critical of Peter’s involvement (11:1–2). Instead of rejoicing at God’s salvation, they were angry that Peter had set aside the Jewish traditions by eating with and sharing with the Gentiles.

**LOQ:** How does Peter defend himself before the Jews?

**Answer:** Peter defended his actions by retelling all that God had done leading up to the Gentiles faith. He began by describing his vision and relating how God taught him not to call unclean what God had cleansed (11:4–10). Peter went on to even describe how the Gentiles had responded to the Gospel and how the Holy Spirit had then fallen upon them. Since God had given the Gentile believers the “same gift” of the Spirit as the Jews had received, Peter was convinced of God’s plan to save the Gentiles. And since God had accepted the Gentiles into the church, Peter had no choice but to do the same.

**LOQ:** How do the Jews respond to Peter’s defense?

**Answer:** When the Jewish believers heard Peter’s careful testimony to how God had saved the Gentiles, all they could do was be silent. God had given visions, sent angels, and outpoured His Spirit. His choice to save the Gentiles was undeniable. Unable to complain against God, the Jewish believers began praising God that he had also lead the Gentiles in the repentance that leads to eternal life in Christ.

### **Summary**

In today’s lesson God reveals a whole new side to His plan of salvation. By speaking to a Gentile named Cornelius, and Peter, a Jewish apostle, God brings the two men together. After hundreds of years of remaining separate from one another, a Jew and a Gentile were now fellowshiping together. During this encounter, God uses Peter to share the Gospel with a large group of Gentiles at Cornelius’ house. There in Caesarea, God carries out His plan to save the Gentiles. In hearing about the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ, God leads the Gentiles to respond in faith and repentance. Their submission to the Lord was proven real and authentic by the Holy Spirit that had fallen upon them. Those Jews that saw the Gentiles receive the same gift of the Spirit they had received knew that God now desired to save both Jews and Gentiles alike. Both groups of people were now apart of God’s church.

### **Application**

In today’s lesson, God extends his salvation to any one who would believe in Him and repent of their sins. Each of us should be thankful that God is not partial to any person, and that He would desire to save the Gentiles as well as Jews. Regardless of what group we belong to, none of use should be prideful as the Jews

were in today's lesson. Instead of being prideful, each of us should submit to God's plan, even when it might look different from our own.

## Presentation Ideas

### A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards® with the lesson.

### Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.

### Signpost

See previous lessons. This week, add signs for Caesarea and Joppa.

## Praise and Worship

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

*Awesome God*

*Change My Heart, O God*

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." —Psalm 78:7*

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### "Gospel Spread Mobile"

Materials: copies of the "Gospel Spread Mobile" craft pages, scissors, yarn, crayons, and other decorations

Directions: Give the students a copy of the craft pages on cardstock to color and decorate. Then have them cut apart the boxes and match the verse cards to the other cards. Punch holes where indicated and then attach the cards in the correct order (1. God sent..., 2. the Jews, 3. the Samaritans, and 4. the Gentiles) by tying together with yarn. Attach a ring of yarn at the top for hanging.



### Cornelius and Peter Slider

Materials: copies of "Cornelius Sends for Peter and Peter Preaches to the Gentiles" craft pages, two 1-2-inch long straw sections per student, one 8-inch piece of yarn per student, pencil, crayons, tape

Directions: After coloring and decorating the craft pages, have the students cut out the group of men and Peter. Help the students punch holes where indicated with a sharp pencil and then help the children do the following tasks. Put straws on the yarn. Thread the yarn through holes and tape the ends to the back of the page. Finally, tape pictures onto the straws in the correct position. Slide the pieces to show Cornelius' men going to Joppa and bringing back Peter.



### **“Peter’s Vision about Food” Slider**

Materials: copies of “Peter’s Vision about Food” craft page, 1-2-inch long section of a drinking straw per student, 7-inch long piece of yarn per student, pencil, scissors, tape, crayons or other decorations

Directions: Give each child a craft page and have them cut off the side strip and then cut out the picture of the animals. Help students thread yarn through the straw and then punch holes where indicated with a pencil. Next, thread the yarn through the holes attaching it to the back of the page with tape. Have the students tape the animals to the section of straw. The animals should be able to move up and down the strand of yarn.



### **Far and Near Magnet Slide**

Materials: copies of the Ephesians 2:13 craft page (cut into half sheets), paper clips, magnets, scissors, crayons

Directions: Give each child a craft page and have them cut off the bottom strip. Fold the strip on the dotted lines and attach the bottom together with a paper clip. Place the stand-up piece on top of the base sheet, and hold a magnet under the page, children can slide the stand-up piece around, from “far off” to “near.”



### **“The Gentiles Receive the Gospel”**

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of today’s lesson. It is located at the back of this lesson.



### **Small Group Activity: “God’s Grace to Sinners”**

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. He or she can complete the page individually, in a small group, or at home.

### **Coloring Pages**

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



### **MEMORY VERSE**

“When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.’”

—Acts 11:18

# Gospel Spread Mobile

●  
God sent the  
Gospel to...

●  
the Samaritans

●  
the Jews

●  
the Gentiles





# Gospel Spread Mobile

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."  
—Acts 1:8

"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'  
—Acts 2:38

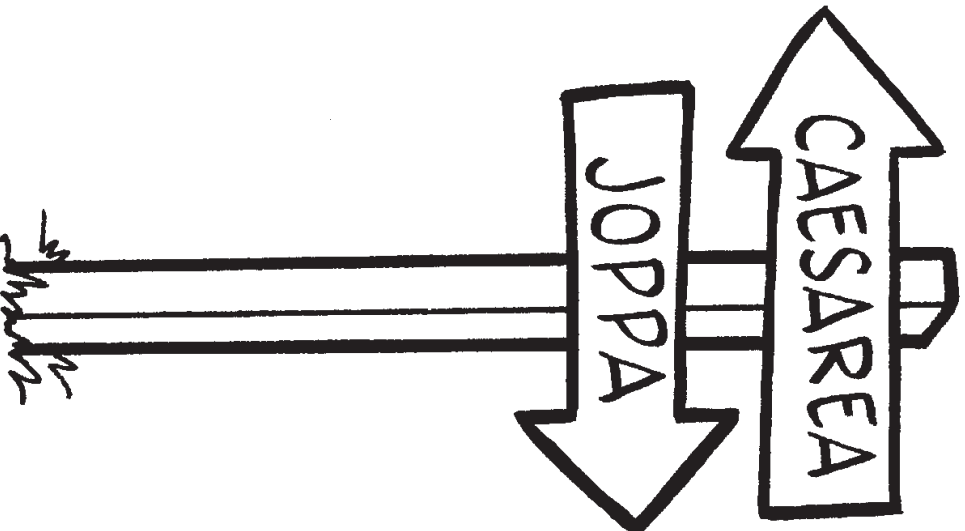
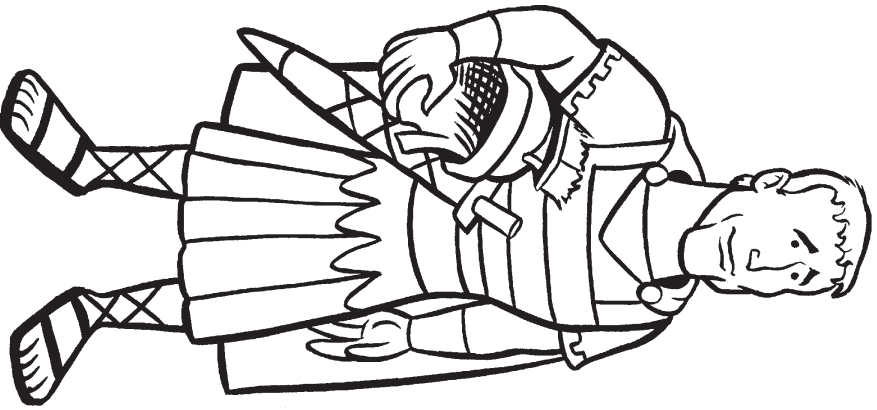
"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them."  
—Acts 8:5

"When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, 'Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.'  
—Acts 11:18



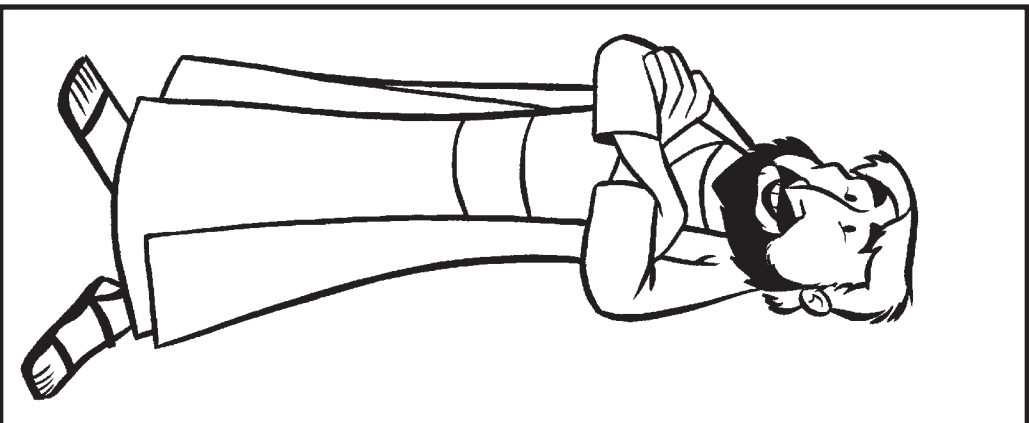
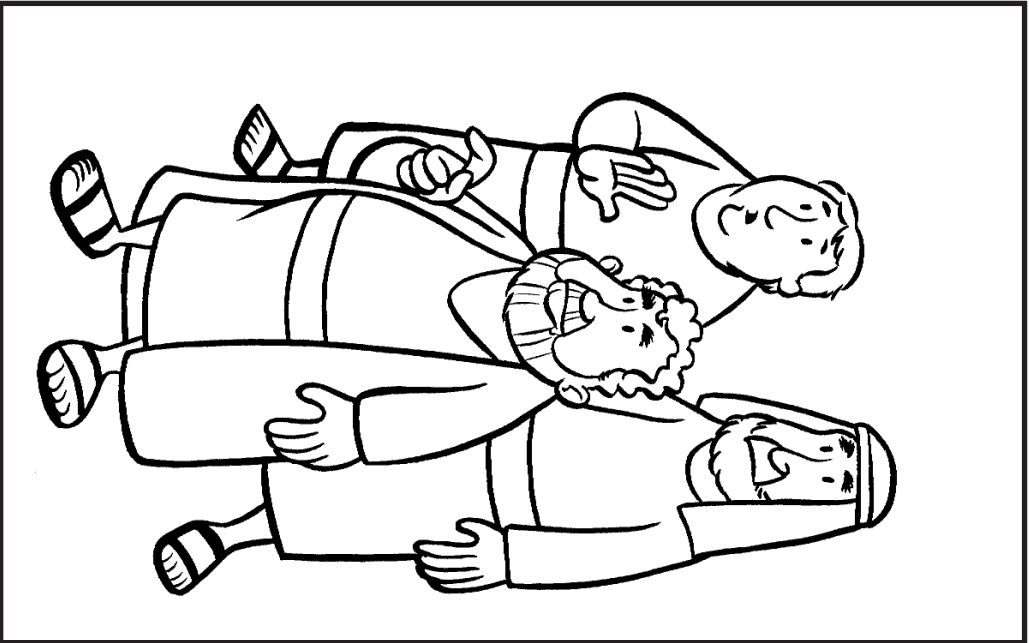
# Cornelius sends for Peter and Peter Preaches to the Gentiles

Acts 10





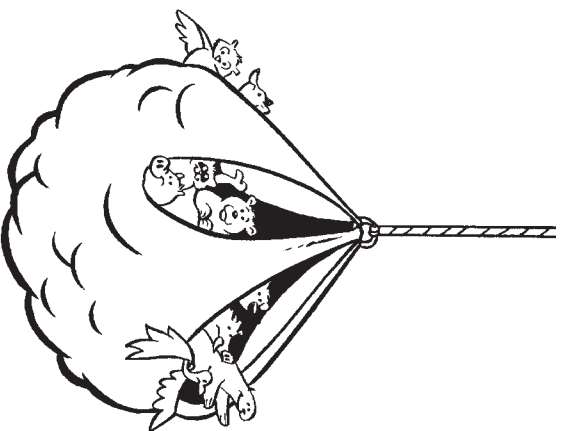
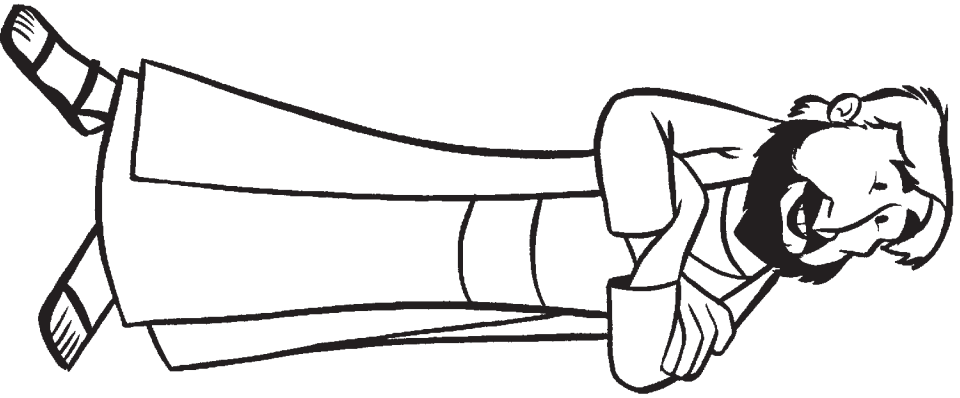
# Cornelius sends for Peter and Peter Preaches to the Gentiles





# Peter's Vision about Food

In Acts 10:9-16 Peter received a vision from God about freedom to eat all foods.







“But now in Christ Jesus  
you who once were  
**far off**...

“But now in Christ Jesus  
you who once were  
**far off**...



“...have been **brought near**  
by the blood of Christ.”  
—*Ephesians 2:13*

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by the blood of Christ.”  
—*Ephesians 2:13*



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# The Gentiles receive the Gospel



Acts 10:1–11:18

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Acts 10:2 describes Cornelius as a \_\_\_\_\_ man, one who \_\_\_\_\_ God, who gave \_\_\_\_\_ generously, and always \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
2. God told Cornelius in a vision to send for \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In his vision Peter saw a sheet with all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ in it.
4. The voice told Peter to kill and \_\_\_\_\_ the animals.
5. The voice also said “What God has cleansed you must not call \_\_\_\_\_” (Acts 10:15).
6. Peter told Cornelius that “whoever believes in Jesus will have remission of \_\_\_\_\_” (Acts 10:43).
7. While Peter was speaking, Cornelius and his household received the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.



## God's Grace to Sinners


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"When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, 'Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.'" —Acts 11:18

Have you ever been to a candy store where you could pick out your favorite candy? Maybe you chose the most colorful candy or the biggest.

It is okay to pick candy this way, but it is not okay to use this manner to decide who can be a Christian. Yet, some Christians only pray for their favorite aunt, uncle, friend, or other close person to be saved. Similarly, the Christian Jews in today's Bible lesson only thought Jews could be saved, but God showed them His grace is big enough for all sinners to be saved—even the Gentiles. This is good news! Be thankful that God's grace is big enough to save anyone who puts faith in Christ.

Add some awesome details to the amazing headline below:

 **Israel Today**  
**CHRIST INVITES ALL SINNERS TO BE SAVED!**

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When it comes to salvation, the Bible tells us that God is no respecter of persons. If God is no respecter of persons, then we should not be either.

Why not pray for someone this week whom you have never prayed for before—even for someone who treats you badly.

This week I will pray that God, in His grace, will save:

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I will ask God to help me to love:

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I will thank God for saving even me because:

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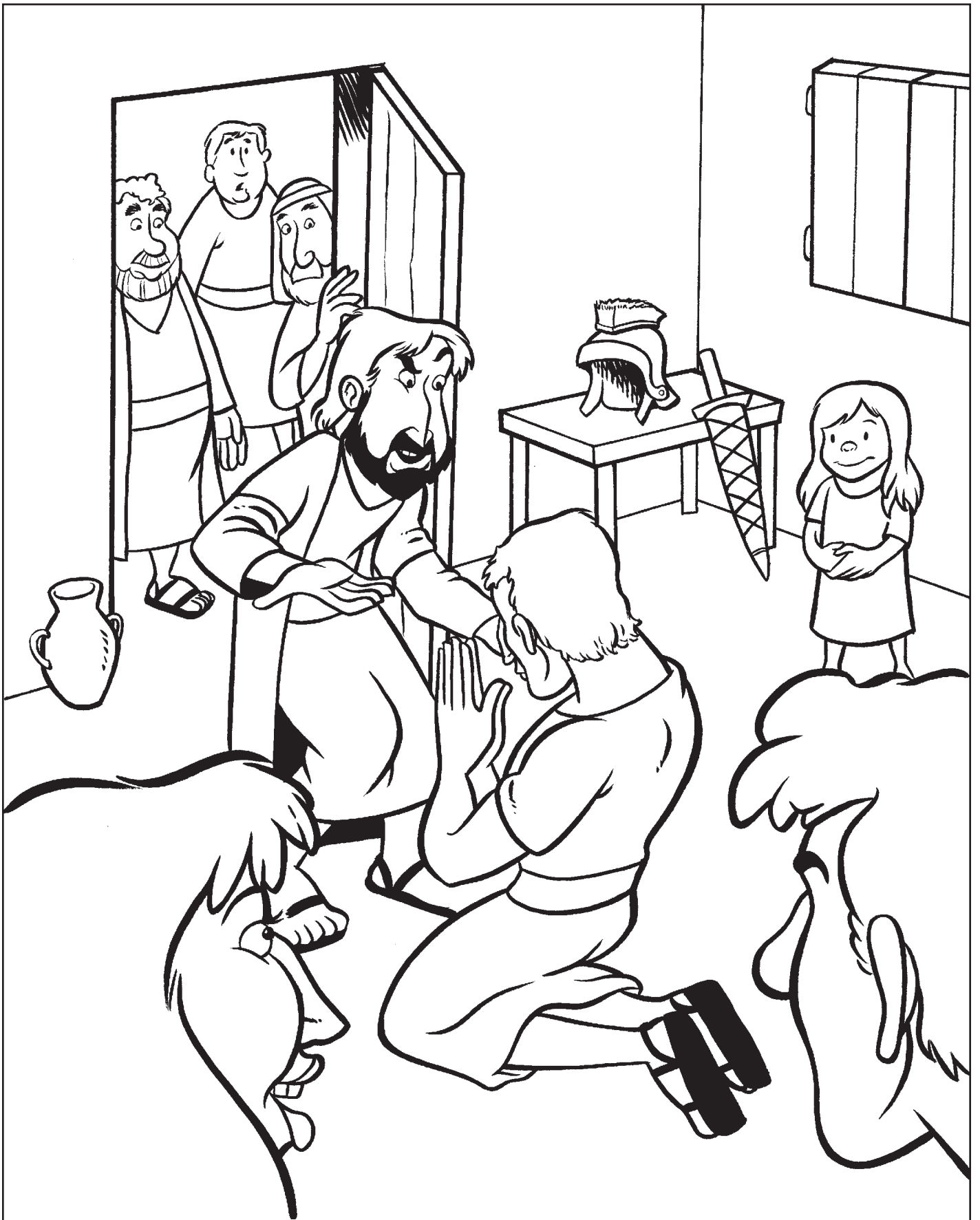
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**“And a voice spoke to [Peter] again the second time, ‘What God has cleansed you must not call common.’ This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.” —Acts 10:15–16**







**“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.” —Acts 10:44**

