



Peter Visits Cornelius

Lesson Aim: To know God washes away the sin of anyone who believes in Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The Spirit Who Changes Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 10:11-12, 15, 34-36, 43-48

What He has done: God proved to Peter that He saves the Gentiles as well as Jews.

Key Verse: Acts 10:43

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 49:6

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18

Unit 2: The Promise of Change			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
6	God Changes Saul's Heart, Acts 9:3-8, 15, 17-19	The Holy Spirit filled Saul and changed his heart.	To know God can change our hearts. (Salvation Message)
7	Saul Escapes From Damascus, Acts 9:19b-25	God made Saul a bold witness for His kingdom.	To share good news about Jesus.
8	Peter and Tabitha (Dorcas), Acts 9:36-42	God restored Tabitha's life.	To learn ways our lives can point people to Jesus.
9	Peter Visits Cornelius, Acts 10:11-12, 15, 34-36, 43-48	God proved to Peter that He saves Gentiles as well as Jews.	To know God washes away the sin of anyone who believes in Him.
10	Peter Escapes from Prison, Acts 12:1-19	God sent His angel to rescue Peter from prison.	To join together in prayer and watch for God's answers.
11	Barnabas Encourages the Church, Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26; 14:19-23	God led Barnabas to encourage the church and its leaders.	To show the importance of encouraging one another.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Revelation 7:9-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for not having favorites. Forgive us for underestimating Your power to cleanse us. Help the children understand Your forgiveness for all who believe in You. Amen."

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Loads of Animals	One pillowcase for every 4 to 6 players, floor tape, an equal collection of toy animals for each team
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Search Me, O God" "For God So Loved the World" "Chosen People" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Change My Heart, O God" "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord" "Amazing Grace" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 51:2	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 9 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Acts 10:11-12, 15, 34-36, 43-45	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Large bed sheet, magazine pictures of people (different races, ages, or cultures), Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Isaiah 49:6	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Strip of cloth from a sheet, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Ham on a Blanket	Small slices of ham and cheese, large bed sheet
	Up to 10	Game: Balloons in the Sheet	Large bed sheet, multiple colors and sizes of non-helium balloons, large bag
	Up to 15	Craft: Hands Around the World	Colored paper, sturdy white paper, scissors, glue or tape, crayons or markers
	Up to 5	Discussion: Peter, Paul, and John	Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Erase It, Then Say It	Chalkboard and chalk or dry erase board and marker
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Balloon Toss	Inflated non-helium balloon, Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite animal?

GAME: LOADS OF ANIMALS

Purpose: To introduce the story of Peter's vision of animals on a sheet.

Supplies: One pillowcase for every 4 to 6 players, floor tape, an equal collection of toy animals (stuffed or plastic) for each team

Teacher Tip: If toy animals are not available, use animal crackers, candy animal shapes, or crumpled balls of paper in different colors.

Today's Bible story teaches us an important lesson that Peter learned about God. God gave Peter a vision of a sheet filled with all different kinds of animals being lowered from heaven. We will learn exactly what God was teaching Peter, but for now let's play a game together collecting animals in these pillowcases.

Directions:

1. Use floor tape to create two parallel lines, several feet apart.
2. Create teams of 4 to 6 players.
3. Half of the children for each team will be the Animal Throwers. Animal Throwers stand behind one of the lines with the animals for their teams stacked in front of them.
4. The other half of the team will be the Animal Catchers. Animal Catchers face their team's Animal Throwers by standing behind the other line. Give a pillowcase to each group of Animal Catchers. Animal Catchers may choose to hold the pillow case together to catch the animals or take turns.
5. On your signal, the Animal Throwers throw one animal at a time across to their Animal Catchers. The Animal Catchers must catch the animals in the pillowcase.
6. Team members cannot step into the area between the lines to toss or catch the animals. However, the Animal Throwers are allowed to go past their line to pick up any animals that do not land in the pillowcase.
7. The goal is to be the first team to catch all of their animals in their team's pillowcase.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship the Spirit who changes us. He changes our heart to believe in Jesus who washes away our sins so we are forgiven. Then, God sees us as His children with pure, clean hearts that are ready to love Him. Let's worship Jesus today by thanking Him for washing away the sins of all who believe in Him. Because of that, we are changed and forgiven! Sing: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" as the offering is collected.



Read Psalm 51:2.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 9.



God has no favorites. He forgives everyone who believes in His Son Jesus. He puts the Holy Spirit into the hearts of believers and He transforms us to be more like Jesus. Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's forgiveness.



Peter visits Cornelius

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned God used Peter to raise Tabitha back to life. What did the people in Joppa do when they heard about this? (Many believed in Jesus.)

Today's story is about Peter's visit to the home of Cornelius. If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Peter Visits Cornelius. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

Before today's story took place, Peter thought Jesus came only for the Jews. Let's see what Peter learned about Jews and Gentiles. A Gentile is anyone who is not a Jew. If a map is of Ancient Israel is available, point out Joppa, Israel. On modern maps, the town of Joppa is now named Jaffa or Tel Aviv-Jaffa.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Acts 10:11-12, 15, 34-36, 43-48. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Acts 10:43.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

This story is full of surprises! The first surprise came when an angel appeared to a Gentile named Cornelius. The angel told him to send his men for Peter. Just before they arrived, God gave Peter a surprising vision. Read Acts 10:11-12.

In the vision, Peter was surprised to hear a voice tell him to hunt and eat the animals. Peter knew the Jewish rules for food called some of these animals unclean or impure. Listen to what the voice told Peter three times. Read Acts 10:15.

Peter went with the men to visit Cornelius' home. Peter was a Jew and Cornelius was a Gentile. Everyone knew it was against Jewish law for a Jew to visit the home of a Gentile. They were thought of as impure or unclean. But, Peter went inside Cornelius' home because God had shown him he was not to call any man impure or unclean. Check out what Peter told Cornelius, along with his family and friends. Read Acts 10:34-36, 43-48.



All who believe are cleansed

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: Large bed sheet, magazine pictures of people of different races, ages, or cultures.

Spread the sheet on the floor. Seat children in a circle on the outer edges of the sheet. **God gave Peter a vision about different kinds of animals. Peter's vision taught him something about different kinds of people. Here are some pictures of people who are different from you in some way.** Give children magazine pictures of people of different races, ages, cultures, clothing styles, emotions, etc. Include pictures of people your culture would tend to condemn such as enemy soldiers, vandals, prisoners, etc. Have the children place the pictures near the center of the sheet where they can be seen by everyone. **How are you different from the people in these pictures?** (Children respond.) **How are you different from the children sitting on this sheet with you?** (Children respond.) **Just as the sheet from heaven had many different animals, this sheet has many different people. The pictures remind us that God forgives all different types of people.**

Do you think God has a favorite or least favorite person from the pictures? (No.) **God has no favorites. Anyone who believes in Jesus is forgiven and made clean in God's eyes. We become part of God's family which is filled with boys and girls, young and old, and people from every race. No matter who we are, where we are from, what we have done, or what we look like—as soon as we believe in Jesus, we are forgiven and belong to Jesus forever.**

What does the word Gentile mean? (Anyone who is not Jewish.) **Just as it was hard for Peter to imagine Jesus washing away the sins of the Gentiles, it may be hard for us to imagine God washing away the sins of certain people. Do you think there is any person on this sheet or in these pictures whose sins are so terrible that Jesus could not wash them away?** (No, nothing is impossible with God.) **What did God say three times to Peter in the vision?** ("Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.") **If anyone in these pictures believes in Jesus, then Jesus will wash away that person's sins. God will make his or her heart clean. That's true for anyone who believes in Jesus, because God has no favorites.**

The Holy Spirit came on all who heard Peter's message. Cornelius and his friends and family praised God. What did they do next? (They were baptized.) **Baptism is a special ceremony where those who believe in Jesus are dipped in or sprinkled with water to show Jesus has washed away their sins (wrongdoings). It is a sign that we belong to Him. When we believe in Jesus, He washes our sins away so our hearts are clean and pure in God's eyes. He sees us all the same—with clean hearts that are ready to love Him.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

More than 700 years before Peter learned Jesus came to save the Gentiles as well as the Jews, Isaiah promised that God would do that very thing! Let's find it in the Bible.



FIND IT FIRST> Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 49:6. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Isaiah 49:6.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a cloth strip from a sheet like the one we sat on today. You can use it as a bracelet, a key chain, a bookmark, or hang it in your room. Whatever you do with it, let this sheet always remind you that God can make anyone clean from sin.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 9 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Peter's vision of the sheet lowering from heaven with many different animals on it.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: HAM ON A BLANKET

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discovering one difference between Jews and Gentiles.

Snack Suggestion: Small slices of ham and cheese, large bed sheet

Did you know that when the disciples were first telling others about Jesus, they only told other Jews like themselves? They thought Jesus had come to save just the Jews. Jews and Gentiles followed different rules of living. The Jews had a list of meats they did not eat; they believed those animals were “unclean.” Pigs were one of those “unclean” animals, so the Jews did not eat ham. The Gentiles did not follow the Jewish rules about food.

God used the unclean animals on the sheet to show Peter it was good to tell the Gentiles about Jesus. God wanted Peter to know Jesus washes away the sins of anyone who believes in Him. He can save anyone and make them clean. This was true not just for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles—even though they had different habits and rules.

Directions:

1. Spread the sheet on the floor. Children sit on the edge of the sheet. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask each child to answer this question: **“What is the strangest thing you have seen someone eat?”**

GAME: BALLOONS IN THE SHEET

Purpose: Children try to keep balloons representing people around the world on top of a bouncing sheet to help them remember Jesus came for everyone in the world.

Supplies: Large bed sheet, multiple colors and sizes of non-helium balloons, large bag

Prepare: Blow up several balloons of different colors and place them in the bag.

God used a vision of a sheet with animals to help Peter know Jesus came not only for the Jews, but for all people. God cares about everyone in the world. In this bag are balloons of different colors and sizes, just like people are different in many ways.

Directions:

1. Spread the sheet on the floor. Children stand around the sheet and grasp the edges.
2. On your signal, the children lift the sheet to waist level.
3. Hold up one balloon and give it a role description (soldier, soccer player, painter, banker, prisoner, pastor, gang member, grandmother) and a location, such as a pastor in Brazil.
4. Place the balloon on the sheet. Children work together to bounce the balloon off the sheet.
5. If a balloon falls off the sheet, the child closest to it tosses the balloon back on the sheet.
6. Ask a child to get another balloon, give it a role and location, and place it on the sheet.
7. Repeat step 8 until the children are bouncing all the balloons on the sheet.

Limited space? Eliminate the sheet and use just a few balloons. Children sit on the floor. Give each balloon to a child who gives it a role description (and location) and bops it into the air. If a balloon hits the ground, the child closest to it picks it up, gives it a new role description, and bops it into the air.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: HANDS AROUND THE WORLD

Purpose: Children will make a wreath of hands to represent God's love and salvation for everyone.

Supplies: Colored paper, sturdy white and red paper, scissors, glue or tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: Children will work together to make one wreath. Cut a large circle from sturdy white paper. Cut out the center to make a wreath shape. Cut a large heart from sturdy red paper. Write **"God loves everyone the same!"** on the heart. Glue or tape the heart to the top or middle of the wreath.

What did God show Peter? (A sheet full of animals.) **What did Peter learn from the vision?** (God shows no favoritism. He forgives anyone who believes in Jesus.) **Who did Peter visit to tell about Jesus?** (Gentiles: Cornelius, his family and friends.) **God wanted Cornelius to believe in Jesus. God wants everyone around the world to believe in Jesus. Let's work together to make a wreath filled with names of many different people.**

Directions:

1. Children trace their hands onto a sheet of colored paper then cut out the hand shapes.
2. Children each write their own name and the name of someone who is very different from themselves on their paper hands.
3. Decorate the paper hands with crayons or markers.
4. Tape or glue all the hands around the large circle to make a wreath.
5. Display the wreath in the room.
6. **Look at the different hands! There are many different people in the world. We are different from each other, but God loves each person the same!**

DISCUSSION: PETER, PAUL, AND JOHN

Purpose: To discover how God gave the other apostles the message about saving the Gentiles.

Supplies: Bible

What did God say three times to Peter in the vision about the sheet with the animals? ("Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.") **Peter learned God would forgive and save anyone who believed in Jesus. In the past, God had given that message to Isaiah and other prophets. When God showed Peter this truth, He also showed other apostles like Paul and John. Let's see what John learned.** Read 1 John 1:8-10. **Now, let's check out what Paul said.** Read Galatians 3:26-28.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18

Teacher Tip: During both activities, review the meaning of each phrase in the Bible Memory Verse.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (The Holy Spirit frees us to follow Jesus.)

And we, who with unveiled faces (As believers, we can see Jesus is the Lord.)

all reflect the Lord's glory, (Our lives show others His greatness.)

are being transformed into His likeness (We are being changed to be even more like Jesus.)

with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord. (We will keep showing more and more of His greatness because His Spirit is in us.)

GAME: ERASE IT, THEN SAY IT

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Chalkboard and chalk or dry erase board and marker

Directions:

1. Write the words of 2 Corinthians 3:17b-18 on the board. As you write each word, lead the children in saying it with you.
2. Say the whole verse together.
3. Review the meaning of the Bible Memory Verse as explained in the Teacher Tip above.
4. Choose a volunteer to erase one word. Children say the verse again, filling in the erased word.
5. Continue having children erase words and recite the verse until all the words are erased.
6. Choose a few volunteers to say the verse from memory by themselves or as a small group.
7. Say the whole verse together, one more time.

GAME: BALLOON TOSS

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Inflated non-helium balloon, Bible Memory Verse poster

Directions:

1. Review the meaning of the Bible Memory Verse as explained in the Teacher Tip above.
2. Divide children into five teams.
3. Assign each team one of the following five phrases: **Where the Spirit of the Lord is,/ there is freedom. And we, who/ with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory/ are being transformed into His likeness with/ ever-increasing glory which comes from the Lord.**
4. Give the teams time to memorize their phrase.
5. Children stand in a circle. Teams should be spread out within the circle.
6. The team with the first phrase tosses a balloon high into the air. They must recite their phrase before the balloon touches the floor.
7. As soon as the team completes its phrase, a member of the next team taps the balloon as high as possible. That team recites their phrase before the balloon touches the floor.
8. Continue until all five phrases have been recited.
9. Play again, as time allows.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Review the recent Bible stories studied to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done. Create or purchase a Bible Timeline. Hang your timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the corresponding questions.

Saul Escapes from Damascus In Damascus, Saul preached boldly that Jesus was the Son of God. The Jews there were surprised Saul had changed his mind about Jesus. They made an evil plan to stop him from telling others about Jesus. How did his followers help Saul escape from Damascus? (They lowered him in a basket through an opening in the city wall.)

Peter and Tabitha In Joppa, there was a woman named Tabitha. How did her life of doing good and helping the poor point the people of Joppa to Jesus? (Tabitha's kindness showed them the kindness of Jesus.) What did Peter say and do at her bedside after she died? (He prayed, asked Tabitha to get up, and lent her his hand to help her get up.)

Peter Visits Cornelius God gave Peter a vision to show Jesus came to save all who believe in Him—Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews). God has no favorites. At the same time, an angel told a Gentile named Cornelius to invite Peter to his home. What happened when Peter spoke to everyone there? (Cornelius' friends and family believed in Jesus and were baptized.)

How to create a Bible Timeline:

1. Print the story title or person's name with historical date (whenever available) on a card. Before each lesson, add that new card to the Bible Timeline. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-31 are not available. On the Bible Timeline for Lesson 1-31, the events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible.
2. Attach card to wall or clothesline in the following order for Prophets & Promises Lessons 1-31:

Acts – Revelation: Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Holy Spirit Comes > Peter and the Lame Man > The Stoning of Stephen > Philip and the Ethiopian > God Changes Saul's Heart > Saul Escapes from Damascus > Peter and Tabitha > Peter Visits Cornelius > Peter Escapes from Prison > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-48 A.D.) > Peter Visits Macedonia (Circa 50 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 51-53 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 51-53 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 51-53 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 54-58 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 58 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 61-63 A.D.) > New Testament Letters

Note: You may choose to add a card labeled Jesus on Earth (Circa 1-33 A.D.) to your timeline.

Teacher Tip: For a comprehensive list of stories for Genesis through Revelation in timeline form, see ResourceWell.org.