



Peter Visits Cornelius

Lesson Aim: To know God loves everyone the same.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The Spirit Who Changes Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 10:9-12, 15, 22-35

What He has done: God showed He does not have favorites.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "God loves you."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Unit 2: The Promise of Change			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
6	God Changes Saul's Heart, Acts 9:1-7	Jesus spoke to Saul from heaven.	To know God can change our hearts to want to be more like Jesus.
7	Saul Escapes from Damascus, Acts 9:19b-25, 28	God protected Saul as a witness for His kingdom.	To keep telling others about Jesus.
8	Peter and Tabitha (Dorcas), Acts 9:36-42	God helped Peter bring Tabitha back to life.	To know we can help others.
9	Peter Visits Cornelius, Acts 10:9-12, 15, 22-35	God showed He does not have favorites.	To know God loves everyone the same.
10	Peter Escapes from Prison, Acts 12:5-17	God sent His angel to rescue Peter from prison.	To know praying together is important.
11	Barnabas Encourages Saul, Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26	God sent Barnabas to help Saul.	To be a true friend to others.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Revelation 7:9-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank you, Lord, for having no favorites. Forgive us for underestimating Your power to cleanse us. Help the children understand Your forgiveness for all who believe. Amen."

Permission is granted to reproduce these materials. Not for resale. Use is subject to the Terms of Use available at ResourceWell.org. Terms are subject to change without notice. All other rights are reserved.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Stamp or sticker of a heart
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "God loves you."
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: "A New Creation" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "How Wide" "I Can Do Everything" "It's Praise Time" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Mighty to Save" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Jesus Loves Me" "Change My Heart, O God" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Sunday School Songs by Songtime Kids America's 25 Favorite Praise & Worship Choruses for Kids by Brentwood Kids
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 9
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Acts 10:9-12, 15, 22-35	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 10:32 Visual: Heart shape (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Cornelius' House	3 standard-size sheets of sturdy white paper, glue or tape, crayons or markers, optional: magazines
		Game: God's Love for All!	Heart shape (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)
		Game: "God's Love" Balloon Bounce	Inflated balloons in various colors (non-helium), permanent marker
		Snack: Love Snack	Heart-shaped or red snack
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 9 Color This Story: "Peter Visited Cornelius"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 10:9-12, 15, 22-35	None
	Up to 10	Game: New Hearts	None
	Up to 10	Game: "New Heart" Memory Pass	Heart-shaped item (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God's message being for all people

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



God loves you

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a heart. **Let this stamp of a heart help you remember that God loves everybody! Today's Whisper Verse is "God loves you." Today's Whisper Verse is "God loves you."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "God loves you."

(For visual demonstrations, see commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- "God"** The right hand begins in front of the face, then is lowered and slightly raised in front of the face with palm facing left and all five fingers together.
- "loves"** The hands hug something over the heart to indicate the concept of love.
- "you."** The index finger of the right hand points forward as the arm moves forward from body at waist level.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "God loves you," Deuteronomy 23:5. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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 "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.

It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who changes us. He changes us to be more and more like Jesus. One way we can be more like Jesus is to love everyone the same. That means loving others just as God loves you. That's today's Whisper Verse. Let's try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: **"God loves you."** Include sign language.



God loves each one of you the same. He made each one of you to be different and you are each very special to Him. Do you think God loves one of us more than another? (No. He loves everyone the same.) God loves everyone in the world! Let's thank Him for His goodness and love. Sing: "Give Thanks to the Lord."

God loves each one of you. We show we love God when we praise Him. We can also show our love by giving an offering. These offerings are used to help people know God loves them. Sing: "Jesus Loves Me" while collecting the offering.



Today, we will hear a story about Peter and Cornelius. Let's see if Delbert and Lello have heard the story of Peter's visit to Cornelius' house. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 9.



When Peter visited Cornelius, he told everyone there that God loved them all. Let's walk in place and pretend we are walking to a friend's house to tell everyone there that God loves them, just as Peter did. Sing: "How Wide."

After they believed in Jesus, Peter knew the Holy Spirit had changed their hearts. They had a brand new start! Sing Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation."



Peter visits Cornelius

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;

My mouth quiet as can be,

I will listen to hear,

How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned that Tabitha helped others. Today, we will see how God showed He loves everyone. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 10:32.

WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 10:9-12, 15, 22-35

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a heart shape (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out). Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **God gave Peter a dream one day,**
- **Of a sheet coming down from above.**
- **This sheet full of animals of every kind**
- **Showed Peter about God's love.**

- **An angel told Cornelius,**
- **"Ask Peter to visit today."**
- **Cornelius called his family and friends,**
- **To hear what Peter would say.**

- **Peter told them "God loves you.**
- **You can follow Jesus, too.**
- **For God loves everyone the same.**
- **Just as He loves me and you!"**

In his dream, Peter learned that God loves everyone. He dreamed about many different kinds of animals. Just as God made the animals to be different, God made people to be different, too. God loves all different kinds of people.



Cornelius invited Peter to come for a visit. Who did Cornelius call together to be at his house for Peter's visit? (His family and close friends.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Acts 10:24b from the teacher's Bible. **Peter told everyone at Cornelius' house about Jesus.**

Who loves you? (God.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "God loves you." Include sign language or hand motions. Who loves everyone? (God.) Peter told everyone that God loves them!



God loves everyone

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: CORNELIUS' HOUSE

Purpose: To remind the children that Peter visited Cornelius.

Supplies: 3 standard-size sheets of sturdy white paper, glue or tape, crayons or markers, optional: magazines

Prepare: From sturdy white paper, draw and cut out a picture of Peter walking. On a standard-size sheet of paper, draw a large house with two windows and a door. Cut out the windows. Cut the top, bottom, and right side of the door and crease it open on the left side. At the top of the page, print:

"Peter Visited Cornelius." Acts 10:9-12, 15, 22-35

Optional: Instead of drawing faces in the door and windows, children may cut out and attach pictures of faces from magazines.

Directions:

1. Color Peter. Glue or tape him to the front of the house.
2. Glue or tape the house over another piece of standard-size sturdy white paper.
3. Draw people's smiling faces looking out of the door and windows.

Craft Discussion:

- **At first, Peter thought God had favorite people and loved some more than others. Then in a dream, God showed Peter He loves everyone the same.**
- **Who told Cornelius to invite Peter to his house?** (An angel.)
- **Did Peter go to Cornelius' house?** (Yes.)
- **Who else did Cornelius invite to his house?** (His family and friends.)
- **They all wanted to hear about God. What do you think Peter might have told them about God's love?** (God loves everyone and God loves you!)
- **That's what our Whisper Verse tells us! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions: "God loves you."

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL!

Purpose: Children will pass a heart to realize God loves all of them.

Supplies: Heart shape (paper cut-out, pillow, or toy)

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. **Peter learned God loves everyone the same. Does God love everyone in this room?** (Yes.)
3. Give the heart to one child in the circle.
4. **God loves child's name.**
5. Child gives the heart to the child next to them in the circle and says,
 "God loves child's name."
6. Play until each child has held the heart and heard his or her name.
7. **God loves everyone! Let's hug everyone that God loves in this room.**
8. Gather the children for a group hug.

GAME: "GOD'S LOVE" BALLOON BOUNCE

Purpose: Children will bounce different balloons to reaffirm God loves everyone.

Supplies: Inflated balloons in various colors (non-helium), permanent marker

Prepare: Draw a face on each balloon.

Peter learned God loves everyone. Just as all the animals in Peter's dream were different, we all look different, too. What are some ways you look different from the person sitting next to you? (For example: short or long hair, tall or short, light or dark skin, eye color, hair color, etc.)
Even though we all look different, God loves every one of us! Let's say the names of people God loves.

Directions:

1. Children stand up and spread out around the room.
2. Toss a balloon into the air.
3. Children tap the balloon to keep it in the air.
4. Each time a child taps the balloon, the child says the name of someone (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) whom God loves.
5. If the balloon drops, have a child (or everyone) say and sign the Whisper Verse: **"God loves you."** Toss the balloon back into the air.
6. Once children are able to keep one balloon in the air consistently, add an additional balloon. Add balloons, one at a time; as many as children can keep in the air while saying names.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: LOVE SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat a heart-shaped snack to remind them that God loves everyone.

Snack Suggestion: Heart-shaped or red snack

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Peter dreamed about many different animals all together on one sheet. Do you have a favorite animal?** (Children respond.)
 - **Peter learned God does not have favorite people. God loves us all the same.**
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the Whisper Verse motions: "God loves you."
 - **Who does God love?** (You, me, everyone!)
 - **Does God love some of us more than others?** (No. God loves us all the same.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



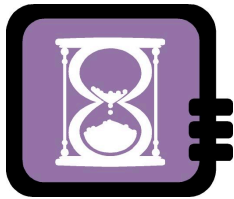
When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Cornelius' House" craft. Tell someone how Peter went to Cornelius' house to tell everyone God loves them.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God loves everyone.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Peter Visited Cornelius." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "A New Creation," as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ACTS 10:9-12, 15, 22-35

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **God gave Peter a dream one day,** (Lay cheek on folded hands as if dreaming.)
- **Of a sheet coming down from above.** (Point from heaven to floor.)
- **This sheet full of animals of every kind** (Spread arms wide.)
- **Showed Peter about God's love.** (Place hands on heart.)

- **An angel told Cornelius,** (Point to heaven.)
- **"Ask Peter to visit today."** (Wave index finger as if giving an instruction.)
- **Cornelius called his family and friends,** (Cup hands around mouth as if shouting.)
- **To hear what Peter would say.** (Cup hand around ear as if listening.)

- **Peter told them "God loves you.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **You can follow Jesus, too.** (Make beckoning motion.)
- **For God loves everyone the same.** (Place hands on heart.)
- **Just as He loves me and you!"** (Point to self and others.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

GAME: NEW HEARTS

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. First child stands in the center of the circle with both hands covering his or her own heart.
3. All the children repeat the Bible Memory Verse after you, replacing the word "anyone" with the name of the child standing in the center of the circle.
 - If child's name is in Christ,** (Children repeat.)
 - He/She is a new creation.** (Children repeat.)
 - The old has gone.** (Children repeat.)
 - The new has come! Hooray!** (Children repeat.)
4. Child in the center removes his or her hands to uncover his or her heart.
5. Play until each child has a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: "NEW HEART" MEMORY PASS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Heart-shaped item (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Give the heart to a child. Lead the children in saying the first word of the verse: "If."
3. Child passes the heart to the next child. Lead the children in saying the next word in the verse: "anyone."
4. Continue passing the heart with each word until the children have repeated the entire verse.
5. Play again. Each time you play, try to say the verse faster.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about God's message being for all people.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 2, Lesson 9: Peter Visits Cornelius

PONDER! Read Acts 10:9-12, 15, 22-35 with your family. Who told Cornelius to invite Peter to visit? Peter and Cornelius were very different, but God helped Peter see He loves everyone the same. Think of people that are very different than you. Does God love those people as much as He loves you?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for loving everyone in the world. Help us to love everyone, too. Amen."

PLAY! "God's Love for All!" Cut out a heart from red paper. Sit in a circle with your family (or play this game while eating a meal). Say, "God loves name of person in the circle." Give the heart to that person. That person then says the same words to someone else and gives him or her the heart. Play until each person has held the heart. Then, bring your family together for a big group hug!

Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse:

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17