

Lesson 29: Acts 10:1-8 Peter and Cornelius

Background: Cornelius receives a vision from God and he sends men to find Peter in Joppa.

Acts 10:1-2 Who was in Caesarea? _____

Acts 10:3-4 What happened to Cornelius? _____

Acts 10:5-8 What did the angel tell Cornelius? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

Adult Signature X _____.

Acts 10:1-8 Question Answers

Acts 10:1-2 Caesarea was a Roman city. While the Jews believed in the One True God who created everything, the Romans believed that there were lots and lots of different gods. Cornelius was a God-fearer though. He believed in the One True God of the Jews and gave lots of money to the poor out of love for God. **Cornelius was a centurion in the Italian army in Caesarea.** A centurion was an officer who commanded 80-100 soldiers.

Acts 10:3-4 At about the ninth hour of the day, that is about 3pm, an angel of God appeared to Cornelius. God knew that Cornelius believed in and trusted Him, so God sent His angel to lead Cornelius to someone who could tell him about Jesus, God the Son.

Acts 10:5-8 Because Cornelius did not yet know that Jesus is God the Son or that Jesus died to forgive him of his sins, the angel told him **to send men to Joppa to find Peter.** God knew that Peter was staying at the home of Simon the tanner in Joppa, so the angel told Cornelius exactly where to find him. The Jews at this time believed that all non-Jews were spiritually unclean and would not even enter a non-Jewish person's home. Even though Peter was a Jew, a member of God's chosen people, and Cornelius was a non-Jewish Roman, God was going to bring them together so that Cornelius could hear the Good News that Jesus died for his sins.

Lesson 30: Acts 10:9-33 Peter's Vision

Background: Peter in the house of Simon the tanner with Cornelius in the city of Caesarea.

Acts 10:9-11 What happened to Peter while up on the roof of Simon the tanner's house?_____

Acts 10:12-16 What did Peter say to God when he was told to, 'kill and eat'?_____

Acts 10:17-33 What did Peter learn about God the Father when he met Cornelius?_____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

Adult Signature X_____.

Acts 10:9-33 Question Answers

Acts 10:9-11 While Cornelius' servants were on their way to find Peter in the city of Joppa, Peter was up on the roof of Simon the tanner's house, waiting to eat lunch. At some point, Peter fell into a trance. His state of mind changed and **he suddenly saw a vision of a sheet being let down from heaven** by its four corners.

Acts 10:12-16 On this sheet from heaven were all sorts of land animals, reptiles, and birds. Because God loves His chosen people, the Jews, the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He gave them a set of ceremonial laws for how they are to live. According to God's law for them, certain animals were okay to eat, while others were not okay to eat. God wanted His chosen people to live in a way that made everyone else want to follow God like the Jews did. So while the non-Jews, people who were not part of the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ate pigs, lizards, rabbits, shrimp and crab, common foods; the Jewish people could not eat those things. God said they could eat beef, goat, and lamb, fish with scales and fins, and birds such as chicken and duck, and that eating unclean foods would make them unfit to worship God. Because of these food laws, the Jews came to look at non-Jews as being dirty, because they would eat the common foods that were unclean for the Jews. When God told Peter to "kill and eat," Peter said, **"By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."** Even though God commanded him to kill and eat the unclean pigs, lizards, camels, and other animals that the Jewish people had been told not to eat in the past; Peter told God, "no, I will not eat those things." To this, God said, "What God has made clean, do not call common." Because of Jesus' death on the cross, the non-Jews could no longer be called common or unclean by the Jews. It was time for the Jewish people to tell the non-Jews that Jesus is God the Son, the promised King from heaven, and that He died to forgive everyone who follows Him of their sins.

Acts 10:17-33 As a Jew, Peter had thought that non-Jews, gentiles, were not as good as Jews, because they ate the foods that God said would make the Jews unclean. When a Jew touch something unclean or went someplace that was unclean, they had to wait a certain amount of time, wash their bodies and clothes, and go through a purification ritual before they could participate in the communal worship feasts and ceremonies of God. When someone was ceremonially unclean, other Jews were not allowed to touch them, because that would make them unclean to God as well. When God sent Peter to Cornelius, God the Father taught Peter that **anyone who trusts and follows Jesus has been made clean, even if they are not a Jew following the Jewish ceremonial law.**

Lesson 31: Acts 10:34-43 Gentiles Hear the Good News

Background: Peter in the house of Simon the tanner with Cornelius in the city of Caesarea.

Acts 10:34-35 Does God play favorites? _____

Acts 10:36-39 Why should the Jews have believed that Jesus was the promised King from God?_____

Acts 10:40-43 Why should the Jews have believed that Jesus really could forgive their sins?_____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

Adult Signature X_____

Acts 10:34-43 Question Answers

Acts 10:34-35 In this passage we are taught that God does not play favorites. The Jews were God's chosen people, because God had shown Himself to them and promised that if they obeyed Him, He would bless them, and when they disobeyed, He would curse them. The Jews of Jesus' day believed that because they were related to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob they were already right with God, and that because the Gentiles were not related to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God would automatically reject them. But because God is perfectly good and perfectly just, **He accepts anyone who trusts and follows Him.** It does not matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, all that matters is that you trust and follow Jesus, God the Son.

Acts 10:36-39 All the Jews in Judea and all the Gentiles in Galilee had seen and heard Jesus saying that He was God the Son, the King of the Jews, which God the Father had promised to send. Jesus proved that He was God's promised King by showing that he had the power to heal people as only God can do, cast out demons as only God can do, and raise the dead to life as only God can do. In Psalm 2, God calls His Anointed One, His promised King, "My Son." So the Jews should have believed that Jesus was God's promised King, **because the power of God was in Him**, and from Psalm 2 they should have believed that their King was God the Son Himself.

Acts 10:40-43 During Jesus' three and a half years of ministry, He was teaching everyone that He was God the Son, the promised King from God the Father, who had come to forgive sinners of their sins. If God was not really Jesus' Father, or if God had not really sent Jesus as the King of the Jews, or if God would not really forgive the sins of the people who trust and follow Jesus, then when Jesus died on the cross, God would not have brought Him back to life. When God **the Father brought Jesus back to life**, He was saying that Jesus really was God the Son, the promised King, who forgives sins.

Lesson 32: Acts 10:44-48 The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

Background: Peter in the house of Simon the tanner with Cornelius in the city of Caesarea.

Acts 10:44 Who fell on the Gentiles while Peter was telling them about Jesus?_____

Acts 10:45 Why were the Jews amazed that God the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentile believers just like He had fallen on the Jewish believers?_____

Acts 10:47-48 What did Peter do when he saw that God had accepted the Gentile believers in Jesus?

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

Adult Signature X_____

Acts 10:44-48 Question Answers

Acts 10:44 Cornelius, a Roman centurion who loved and followed God, had received a vision from God telling him to send for Simon Peter to come to his house. The next day, while Cornelius' men were on their way to find Peter, Peter received a vision from God. Peter's vision was of a sheet coming down from heaven covered in all sorts of animals that God had said that His chosen people were not allowed to eat. In the vision though, God told Peter to kill and eat. When Peter refused to eat the unclean animals, God told him not to call unclean what God has made clean. Because God wanted His chosen people to be different from all the other people-groups in the world, He gave the Jews laws about what kinds of foods they could eat and what kinds they could not eat. These dietary laws were meant to show the world that the Jews worshiped the One True God instead of all the fake gods of the Gentiles, so that when the Gentiles saw how God blessed His people, they would want to follow the One True God too. But instead of the Jews reaching out to their Gentile neighbors to tell them about the One True God, they came to look down on the Gentiles as unclean, hopeless enemies of God, because they did not follow God's laws given to the Jews. In this passage, **God the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles listening to Peter** as soon as they believed that Jesus was God the Son and died to forgive their sins.

Acts 10:45-46 Beside the dietary laws God had given His chosen people to show that they followed the One True God, He had also given them the sign of circumcision. Circumcision is the practice of cutting a baby boy's skin, marking them as one of God's chosen people. Because Gentiles men did not have this mark showing that they were followers of the One True God, the Jews believed that God would reject the Gentiles until they were circumcised. When **the Jewish believers saw the Holy Spirit fall on the Gentiles** like He had fallen on them earlier in Acts 2, it amazed them, because the Gentiles did not have to do anything to their bodies or change the kind of food they ate for God to accept them. All they had to do was trust that Jesus really died to forgive their sins.

Acts 10:47-48 Baptism is an outward sign symbolizing that we have died and risen again with Jesus. By going under the water (being buried) and coming back up (coming back to life), believers in Jesus are saying to everyone around them that they believe Jesus died for their sins and gave them a new life with God. Because our new life with God means God the Holy Spirit has come to live in our heart, when Peter saw the Holy Spirit fall on the Gentile believers, **he said that they should be baptized**, showing everyone that they were followers of Jesus and that the Holy Spirit was at work in their lives.