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Peter and Cornelius , God Shows No Favoritism

Scripture: Acts 10:1-48

Theme: The Gospel is for every nation and every person

1st-3rd Grade (Ages 6-8)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

This Sunday school lesson explores how God's love and grace are not limited by race, culture, or background, as seen in the story of Peter and Cornelius. In Acts 10, we meet a devout Roman centurion named Cornelius, who prays earnestly for God's help to understand how to receive Jesus. Meanwhile, Peter is still following Jewish customs and rules, unaware that God is breaking through in unexpected ways. When an angel tells Cornelius to send for Peter, Peter hesitates at first but eventually realizes God is showing everyone, no matter where they come from, that salvation is open to all. The lesson teaches kids that God loves everyone, and the gospel is meant for every nation and person, not just a select few. The key verse, Acts 10:34-35, reminds kids that God doesn't pick favorites, He welcom Optional reflection: children can draw a picture of Jesus helping their friends, then share one way they can help someone else this week. This extra activity supports the lesson's theme and gives teachers a simple, lowprep option for extending the discussion.

Bible Story

One day, in the city of Caesarea, a man named Cornelius, a devout Roman soldier and a very wealthy man, had a special dream. Cornelius was a god-fearing man who gave generously to the poor and prayed often. While praying one evening, he saw a vision: an angel of God appeared to him and said, 'Cornelius, you and your whole household are to be filled with the Holy Spirit first before you come to visit me.' Cornelius was puzzled but trusted God's message. He called his family and shared what he had seen, and they all waited eagerly for God to act.

Meanwhile, in Judea, at the home of Simon the Tanner, a man named Peter was praying when another vision came to him. He saw four corners of the earth, where people from different nations lived. A voice spoke to him: 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' Peter was confused because he didn't want to eat with Gentiles (non-Jewish people), but the Holy Spirit told him to go to Cornelius. Peter hesitated but obeyed, saying to his

disciples, 'You yourselves know that it is against Jewish law for a Jew to be a friend with or eat with Gentiles. But God has shown me that I should not call any person impure or unclean.' His friends were amazed!

With his disciples, Peter traveled to Caesarea, where Cornelius waited outside the gate, praying. When he saw Peter approaching, Cornelius fell down and worshiped him, thinking Peter was a god! But Peter gently told him, 'I am just a man like you, and God has shown me that no one should call anyone impure or unclean. You may come with your family, for I have seen four men already sent to me from God, who told me to receive you and all who are with you.' Cornelius and his whole household were overjoyed, this was a sign from God!

The next day, Peter arrived at Cornelius' house, where he ate with the family, including a man named Publius, a centurion (Cornelius' friend), and his sister-in-law Rhoda, who was very sick. While they ate together, the Holy Spirit came down on Peter and the men who had come with him. Suddenly, all the believers who had been with Peter, even the Gentiles, began to speak in tongues (new languages they didn't know!) and praised God. Cornelius and everyone else saw this miracle and believed. Peter declared, 'God shows no favoritism. He accepts everyone who truly fears Him and does what is right.' Then Cornelius and his whole household were baptized, and they worshiped God together with Peter and the disciples.

Key Verse

Acts 10:34-35 , 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right.'

The key verse (Acts 10:34-35 , 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right.') calls us to respond to God's truth.

Discussion Questions

- Peter had a vision where God told him to go to a place he had never v
- Peter met a man named Cornelius who looked very different from the pe
- God wants everyone to be able to love God and be part of God's family
- God told Peter that the way he treats people is the way God wants you
- God tells us in the story that He does not pick and choose who He lov

>> Missions Spotlight

The caste system in India has divided people for thousands of years. Missionaries share Peter's vision and the story of Cornelius to show that in Christ, there is no caste. The Gospel is breaking down barriers across India.

-> To the Cross

Peter learned that God doesn't show favoritism , the Gospel is for everyone. The cross broke down every wall: Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female. Because of the cross, we are all one in Christ Jesus.