

# Peter's dream and Cornelius, the Roman Centurion

## Acts 10: 1-48

### *This week, you will need...*

- Toy animals
- A sheet or blanket
- Playdough, clay or salt dough
- Items for junk modelling or Lego
- String or a hula hoop

### What's in the Box?

See if you can guess what we are doing today from these pictures...



Photos: Dragon Saic, Jul Chi, Spanish Browne (freemages.com)

### What's happening today?

Last time we learnt about Saul, a most unlikely convert to Christianity! This week, we will learn about a strange dream that Peter the disciple had, and a man called Cornelius.

### Let's get started

Why not sing the Hokey Cokey together and practice putting your arms and legs in and out?!

Or you could talk about the strangest dream you've ever had!

### Bible Time

In today's true story from the Bible, we will learn that the good news about Jesus is for everyone – and that no-one should be kept from hearing that Jesus is King.

The story can be found in **Acts 10: 1-48**. You can read it from a Bible or find it here on [BibleGateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com).

The story cuts back and forth between the stories of Peter and Cornelius, so you may find it helpful to tell the story in two parts of the room. One idea is to use toys as the characters and then 'interview' them, like a news report.

You may like to watch [this video on YouTube](#) that tells the story.

## Explore

The questions are split by age groups – although you might want to answer them all!

**Climbers** Peter thought some people could never be part of God's family. Who were those people?

### Explorers

How did God show Peter he was wrong?

### Pathfinders

How can someone become part of God's family?

**Everyone** Which statement in each of these pairs is the most important?

*What we eat* or *what we believe about Jesus*

*Where we are from* or *if we trust Jesus*

*How we dress* or *if we love God*

*Explorers & Pathfinders – there is a worksheet for you with more questions on page 4.*

## Reflection

Here are some questions to think about now and throughout the coming week.

- Why do we sometimes think a person cannot become part of God's family? (*some ideas: too old, too young, too bad, too different, a different religion, will never believe*)
- Try to understand in your heart who you think needs the gospel and who doesn't. Have you realised anything about how you think about others?
- Pray for yourself and the way you think about others. Pray for those people for whom you've never prayed before – that they may come to love Jesus and be saved.

## Prayer

Have you ever caught yourself thinking that certain people might be *outside* God's family?

Or, try the flipside – have you ever (perhaps without realising) assumed that only certain people can be *inside* God's family?

Think of someone you have always thought of being 'outside' and never able to be 'in' – maybe because of how they look, things they say, where they live or because you just think they won't want to listen. It could even be someone you've never met, like a celebrity or someone on the news. Pray for them.

Today's passage has helped me see some:

- Sin** I need to turn from
- Promises** I can trust in
- Examples** I can follow
- Commands** I need to obey
- Surprises** – things that surprised me or things I didn't understand

You may find it helpful to make a circle on the floor out of string (or something like a hula hoop) and use this whilst praying to illustrate the idea of *inside* and *outside*.

Finish with this prayer.

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for sending Jesus to die for our sins. Thank you that the hope we have in Jesus is for all people. Please help us treat all people the same and help us to spot ways to share Jesus with people who are different from us.**

**Amen.**

## Games

### Animal Jump and Jive

Gather as many toy animals that you can find and lay them on a sheet (or blanket). Put some worship music on and grab a corner of the sheet. Bounce up and down to the music and see if you can make those animals jump and jive!

### Simon Peter says...

Just like Simon says! Take it in turns to be the caller.

**Both Peter and Cornelius were both given instructions from God that they followed.**

## Activity

### Make animals

Make some different animals using materials like play-dough, salt dough and clay or out of junk modelling or Lego.

You could try looking at **Leviticus 11: 1-47** for ideas of animals that would have been in Peter's dream. Once they're finished, try displaying them on a small piece of cloth (or paper) to represent the sheet that came down from the sky!

### Songs

See if you can make up some actions, or learn some Makaton or British Sign Language words to worship along with your family! Click the title to view these on YouTube.

[Everybody's Welcome](#) BIG Ministries

[Big Family of God](#) Nick & Becky Drake

[No Other Name](#) DumbRocks Music

These next two songs are ideal for quiet reflection. Why not lie down somewhere comfy, close your eyes and listen along? Perhaps you'll hear something that God has to say to you.

[You Need Not Fear](#) BIG Ministries

[You're Amazing](#) Nigel & Jo Hemming

### Challenge

Why not use this time at home to learn the books of the Bible?

How are you getting on? Can you fill in some of these blank Bible books in the right order?

Which book of the Bible are we looking at this week?

[Books of the Bible](#) North Point Kids

(click to view the song on Youtube!)

## Books of the Bible

MinistryArk.com

**OLD TESTAMENT**

Genesis, Deuteronomy, I Kings, Ezra, Ecclesiastes

**LAW**      **HISTORY**      **POETRY**

**NEW TESTAMENT**

Lamentations, Hosea, Nahum, Zephaniah, Malachi, Luke

**PROPHETS**      **GOSPELS**

Acts, I Corinthians, Galatians, Titus, Philemon, 2 Peter, 2 John

**HISTORY**      **LETTERS**      **PROPHECY**

### Mini Challenge

### SCRAMBLIMALS

Can you unscramble these animal names?

- 1 OLIN \_ \_ \_ \_
- 2 THELANEP \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 3 AFGIFER \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 4 YMNKOE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 5 ALLMA \_ \_ \_ \_
- 6 HOISTRC \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 7 LACEM \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 8 AETNATRE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 9 OHRIN \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 10 ELZGALE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

ANSWERS (IF YOU NEED THEM)  
ON PAGE 2!

# Cornelius' Conversion

This true story can be found in Acts 10:1-48

## Discover

Who was Cornelius? (10:1-2, 28)

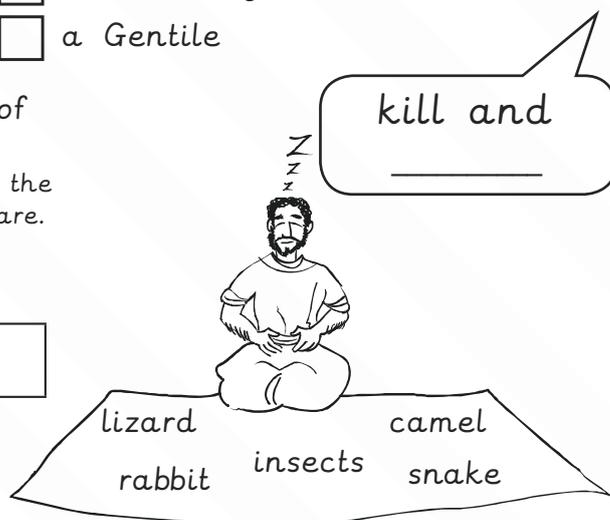
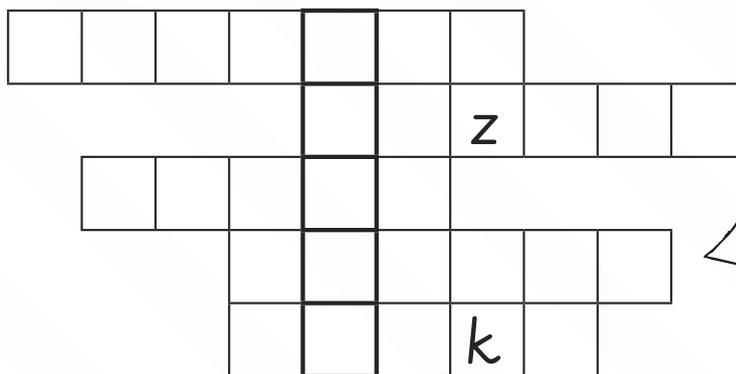
(Tick all the correct boxes)

- |  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a centurion         | or | <input type="checkbox"/> a priest                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> from Joppa          | or | <input type="checkbox"/> in the Italian regiment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> already a Christian | or | <input type="checkbox"/> God-fearing             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a Jew               | or | <input type="checkbox"/> a Gentile               |



God gave Peter a vision of a sheet full of unclean animals.

Use the unclean animals in the sheet to complete the grid below and find out what God now said they are.



Using 10:36 and 10:43, complete the summary of the good news that Peter shared with Cornelius

\_\_\_\_\_ is Lord of \_\_\_\_\_  
Everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ in  
him can be \_\_\_\_\_

### Think? Spot

What does the word 'Gentile' mean?  
Why could Peter not spend time with Gentiles before? (10:28) What changed this?  
Why were Peter's Jewish friends so surprised about what happened? (10:44-45)  
What does this teach us about the gospel?



### DISCUSS?

Are there some people you don't want to talk to about Jesus? Why, or why not?  
Why is it important that they also hear about Jesus?  
Is there someone with whom you would not normally be friends that you could speak to about Jesus?