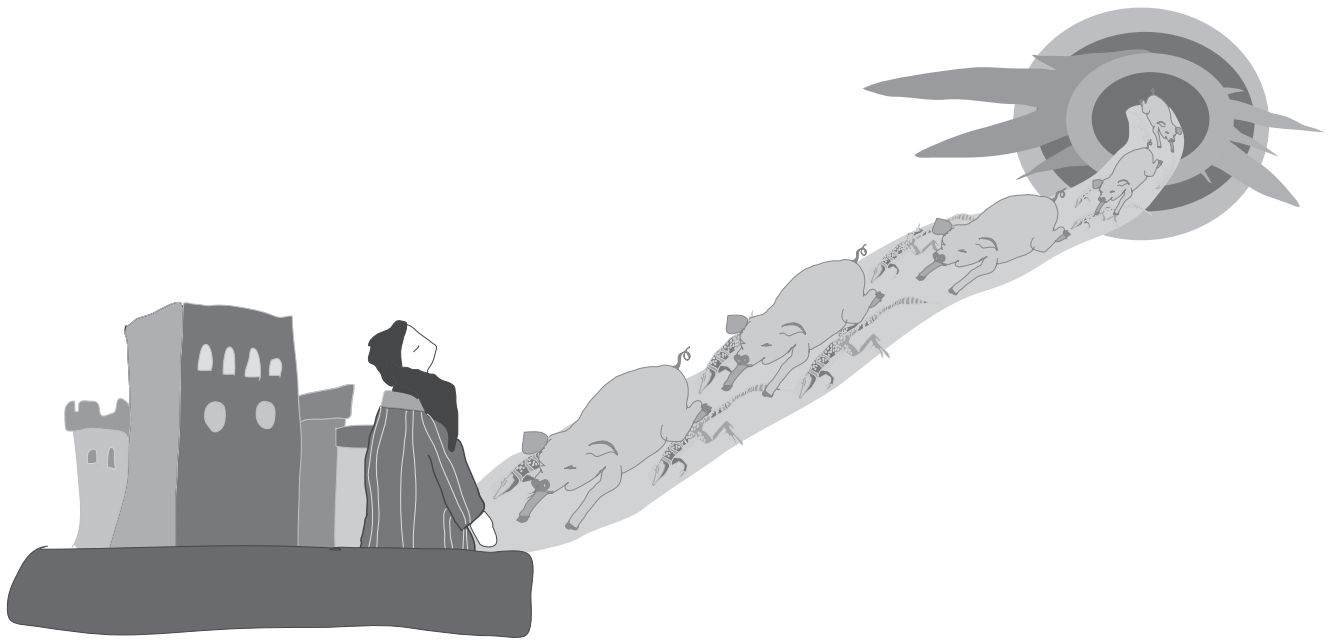


LESSON 51

# The Gentiles Are Converted

ACTS 10



— BIBLE TRUTH —

THE GOSPEL IS OFFERED TO ALL NATIONS

**LESSON SNAPSHOT**

**1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read Acts 10 from the Scriptures or read story 129, “The Gentiles Are Converted,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 15 MIN**

**Three Most Important Verses**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ paper and pens or pencils

**4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION**

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

**5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 20 MIN**

**A Hint of God’s Plan**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ paper and pens or pencils

**6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

**7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Peter’s Vision**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

**8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

**9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 25 MIN**

**Act Out the Gospel to the Gentiles**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ simple costumes—flat sheets, towels and ropes for belts
- ✓ photocopy Acts 10:24–48 for both Peter and Cornelius and highlight their lines on their individual copies as a script

**TOTAL 95 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

## TEACHING POINTS

**What God calls clean is truly clean**—There is no way Peter would have come to Cornelius, a Gentile centurion, unless God helped him realize that the gospel message was meant for the Gentiles as well as the Jews. To help him understand, God gave him a vision of the unclean animals a Jew was not to eat. It took Peter three times to receive the message that what God calls clean is truly clean, and even then Peter was perplexed as to what the vision meant (Acts 10:16–17).

When the messengers came from Cornelius, the Spirit of God urged Peter to go with them to his house. Soon Peter would discover the meaning of the vision.

**Peter obeys God and preaches the good news to the Gentiles**—When Cornelius tried to worship Peter as if he were divine, Peter refused his worship and began to share the gospel message. Peter understood then the meaning of the vision. The unclean animals on the sheet meant that God intended the gospel to go to the Gentiles. Just as the animals were to be considered clean, likewise the Gentiles were no longer to be considered unclean. Peter declared his newfound realization when he said, “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:34–35).

**The Holy Spirit confirms God’s acceptance of the Gentiles**—While Peter preached the gospel, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the Word. They spoke in tongues just as the disciples had on the day of Pentecost. Peter described it this way: “The Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning....God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 11:15, 17). This outpouring of the Holy Spirit in response to Cornelius’ household’s repentance was the evidence that God had indeed saved them and would serve as proof to the leaders of the church in Jerusalem that God indeed had blessed the Gentiles with his salvation (Acts 11:17–18).

## A LITTLE BIT MORE

*Unclean*

God began to refer to certain animals as unclean when he commanded Noah to take them into the ark (Genesis 7:2–8). In Deuteronomy 14:4–20 God listed certain animals as unclean. The term “unclean” was also used to describe anything that touched these animals. All animals already dead were unclean; people with certain skin diseases were unclean (see Leviticus 13:3). God used this designation for two purposes. For the Israelite, every time he went to eat he was reminded of God’s rule and authority over his life. In addition, God was setting up an illustration for the day when Peter would see his vision and God would break through to the Gentiles with the gospel.

## Where Is the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

The gospel is clearly spoken by Peter in our passage:

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Acts 10:38–43

While we should not assume the words recorded in Acts 10 are likely a summary of Peter's message to the household of Cornelius, it is nevertheless a concise summary of the gospel message. Jesus did good (he lived a sinless life). Jesus died an unjust death upon the cross. God raised him from the dead and all those who believe in him are forgiven.

### THE LESSON

#### OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

#### BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read Acts 10 from the Scriptures or read story 129, "The Gentiles Are Converted," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 15 MIN**

**Three Most Important Verses**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ paper and pens or pencils

Divide the class into groups of four to five students and have them take a look at Acts 10 and come up with what they believe are the three most important verses in the passage. They should be prepared to give reasons for their choice. There is no one right answer; however, some possible answers are the following:

Acts 10:38–40 contains the essentials of the gospel.

Acts 10:41–43 talks about how the gospel results in forgiveness for those who believe.

Acts 10:34–36 talks about how the gospel is meant to go to all people without partiality.

Go over the answers your class presents, and if none of them picks one of the groups listed above point those verses out to the class.

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION**

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

**OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 20 MIN**

**A Hint of God’s Plan**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ paper and pens or pencils

Divide the class into five groups. Assign to each one of the following passages and have them tell how their passage hints that God will save all people, not only Israel.

1. Genesis 22:17–18: God promised to Abraham that he would save people of every nation.
2. Joshua 2:1–14; 6:17: God spared Rahab the prostitute even though she was a Gentile.
3. 1 Kings 17:8–16: Elijah was not sent to an Israelite widow but to a Gentile widow.
4. 2 Kings 5:1–14: Naaman, a Gentile, is cleansed of leprosy.

5. Ruth 4:9–22: Ruth, a Gentile, is redeemed by Boaz and becomes the great-grandmother of King David. Jesus would be born into the line of David.

The most significant of these examples is that of Ruth. Jesus himself has a Gentile heritage. Ruth, a Gentile, clearly served the God of Israel. God is interested in the heart, not the outward appearance. God, in Peter's dream, was exploding the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile (see Ephesians 2:12–14).

**WORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the WORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Peter's Vision**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Draw a picture of Peter's vision. Review the list of unclean animals in Deuteronomy 14:4–20 and/or Leviticus 11.

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 25 MIN**

**Act Out the Gospel to the Gentiles**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ simple costumes—flat sheets, towels and ropes for belts
- ✓ photocopy Acts 10:24–48 for both Peter and Cornelius and highlight their lines on their individual copies as a script

Choose students to play Peter and Cornelius and then use the balance of the class to play the roles of the relatives of Cornelius.

As the teacher, you can serve as director and narrator. Use Acts 10:24–48 as a script.

Have the children act out the action parts of the passage; for example, when Cornelius falls down to worship Peter in verse 25, the family follows suit.

After acting out the scene a couple of times, if time allows, take your drama “on the road” and perform it for one of the younger classes.