

UNIT 32 | SESSION 2

# PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL

## ACTS 10

### KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 12:12

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

God showed Peter that just as there is no “clean” and “unclean” food in Christ, there are no “clean” and “unclean” people. God calls believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter who they are or where they come from. Jesus is the Lord of all.



**PREPARE**

**PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION**



**PREPARE**

PREPARE YOUR HEART  
TO TEACH; PLAN  
THE SESSION



**WELCOME**

GREET KIDS  
and OPEN  
THE SESSION



**LEARN**

TEACH KIDS  
THE STORY  
OF THE GOSPEL



**LOVE**

LEAD KIDS TO  
LOVE THE GOD  
OF THE GOSPEL



**LIVE**

LEAD KIDS TO  
LIVE OUT THE MISSION  
OF THE GOSPEL

## LEADER Bible Study

The story of Peter's revelation in Acts 10 reveals a core tenet in the gospel of Jesus Christ: God saves all who come to faith in His Son, regardless of their past, cultural differences, or their upbringing. The gospel is for all people, and it took Peter—just as it will require us today—great humility to see that God shows no favoritism. The ones whom God calls clean are clean; the ones He brings into His family are in His family forever.

What did these visions reveal to both Cornelius and Peter? How did these animals in the vision correlate to a deeper truth about God's gift of salvation and invitation for all?

God prepared both Cornelius and Peter for the invitation that would change the makeup of Jesus' church forever. Cornelius, a God-fearing Gentile centurion, was not welcome within Jewish social circles nor was he accepted in any way as clean according to Jewish beliefs. Even still, God used him to open Peter's eyes to the reality that the gospel builds bridges between people groups rather than divide them even further.

Peter's vision seemed to be much less direct than Cornelius; yet God was patiently repetitive in instilling the greater message that the ones whom He purifies through faith are brought into the family of God—with no stipulations due to custom or culture.

This revelation was contrary to the Jewish traditions and defied favoritism, which later caused tension within the early church. (Acts 11:1-18) Still, as Peter preached the good news and declared that Jesus is Lord of all, the Holy Spirit fell on all who believed the gospel—confirming God's desire to save anyone who trusts in Jesus.

Explain to your kids that the good news of Jesus Christ is for all people, and we are all called to faithfully invite others to believe the good news of Jesus Christ. May this reality be as true in our churches and social circles today as it was in Cornelius' home all those centuries ago.

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

**Cornelius:** a centurion in the Roman army who lived in Caesarea (Acts 10:1). He was a Gentile who worshiped the one true God and treated the Jewish people with kindness and generosity.



**PREPARE**

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## **GATHER** Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



**WELCOME**

### **Activity Page**

- ☐ "All Kinds of Animals" activity page

### **Session Starter (Option 2)**

- ☐ toy animals, 1 less than the total number of kids
- ☐ bedsheet



**LEARN**

### **Introduce the Session**

- ☐ countdown video

### **Big Picture Question**

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

### **Review the Timeline**

- ☐ Giant Timeline

### **Tell the Bible Story**

- ☐ "Peter Learned That Jesus Is for All" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ bedsheet (optional)
- ☐ toy animals (optional)

### **Questions from Kids**

- ☐ "Unit 32, Session 2" questions from kids video

### **Missions Moment**

- ☐ "Gospel City Church" missions video

### **Key Passage Activity**

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "Many Parts (1 Corinthians 12:12)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ sticky notes



**LOVE**

### **Review & Bible Skills**

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



**LIVE**

### **Activity Choice (Option 1)**

- ☐ "Popcorn Box Template" printable
- ☐ wrapped, unpopped package of microwave popcorn, 1 per kid (optional)

### **Activity Choice (Option 2)**

- ☐ dry erase board

### **Reflection and Prayer**

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** 🗨️ What is your favorite thing to eat? What is something you do not like to eat? 🗨️

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “All Kinds of Animals” on the activity page.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Were you able to find all the animals? Today, we’re going to learn about a vision Peter had with all kinds of animals. Let’s get ready to learn what Peter’s vision meant. 🗨️

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: ANIMAL SOUNDS



Invite kids to sit in a circle. Lead kids to go through the letters of the alphabet by making an animal sound that starts with that letter. For example, for the letter “A” a kid could simulate the sound of an alligator by clapping their hands together. Or for the letter “B,” a kid could growl like a bear. Invite the other kids to guess the animal for each sound. Be sure to offer help to kids stuck on a letter. Consider skipping the letters X and Y.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Those were some fantastic animal sounds! God has made so many amazing animals. Long ago, God said that some animals were unclean for His people to eat. In our story today, we will hear how God told Peter that all animals were made clean. Let’s get ready to learn how Jesus makes all things clean. 🗨️

#### ☐ OPTION 2: RACE TO WIN

Lay a bedsheet in the center of the room and place toy animals on it, making sure there is one less animal than the total number of kids. Invite kids to circle around the bedsheet. Tell kids that when you say “Go,” they will race to grab an animal and stand back in the circle. Explain that whoever does not get an animal is out. Play additional rounds, being sure to remove one animal each round.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Seeing all these animals on the sheet reminds me of our Bible story. We will learn how Peter had a vision from God of all kinds of animals on a sheet. Let’s get ready to learn why God gave Peter this vision and how it is good news for all people. 🗨️

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### INTRODUCE the Bible Story

#### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “Hi, my name is [your name]. I am so glad you are here today! Today, we will hear a story from the Bible with some amazing news: Jesus is for all people. If you brought your Bible, hold it up as high as you can. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

God speaks to us through His Bible and gave us His Word so we can know Him. We are able to understand who God is and what He has done through the Bible. Today, God helped Peter understand more about what He had done through His Son, Jesus. As we hear our story, we'll see that Peter learned that Jesus is for all.”

Worship

\* Praise

\* offering

#### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

\* King of Kings

**SAY** “Last time, we learned our new big picture question. Does anyone remember it? [Allow responses.] Our big picture question is, What is the church? Can you repeat the answer after me: The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God. [Guide kids in repeating the answer, breaking it into segments if needed.]

It doesn't matter where someone lives or what language a person speaks—all people are invited to trust in Jesus and become a part of His church. In our story today, we will learn how the church continued to grow through Peter's ministry and that the good news of Jesus is for everyone!”

#### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “We have been learning how the church grew and spread out into Judea and Samaria. As the church grew, Peter and the apostles also traveled to different cities. A few weeks ago, we learned that Philip was led by the Holy Spirit to an Ethiopian man who trusted in Jesus and was baptized. Then last week, we saw how Peter traveled to Lydda and Joppa and healed Aeneas and Tabitha. Through Peter's miracles, people trusted in the Lord and were saved. Today, we will learn how the church continued to grow and how anyone, no matter who they are or where they're from, can be saved by Jesus.”





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story



#### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Acts 10. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Peter Learned That Jesus Is for All.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL

**“Cornelius was an officer in the Roman army who lived in Caesarea (sess uh REE uh). He and everyone in his house worshiped God. Cornelius helped other people, and he always prayed to God. One afternoon, Cornelius saw an angel of God in a vision which frightened him.**

**The angel said to him, “God has heard your prayers, and He has seen how you help others.” Then the angel told Cornelius to send for a man named Peter, who was in the city of Joppa. So Cornelius sent two of his servants and one soldier to Joppa.**

**The next day, as the servants and the soldier were nearing the city, Peter went up on the roof of the house to pray. Peter saw a vision of something like a large sheet coming down from heaven. In the sheet were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and birds. A voice said to him, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat!”**

**“No, Lord!” Peter said. “I have never eaten anything that is unclean or used for sacrifices.”**

**Again, a voice said to him, “God has made these clean. Do not call them unclean.” This happened three times, and then the whole thing was taken up into heaven.** Peter tried to understand what the vision meant.

**Then Cornelius’ men arrived at the gate. They explained that Cornelius had seen a vision, and an angel instructed him to send for Peter. So the next day, Peter went with the men to Caesarea.**

**When Peter got to Cornelius’ house, he explained to Cornelius that God does not consider some people to be better than others. God had sent good news to the Israelites: Jesus is Lord of all. After Jesus was killed, God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and Jesus appeared to many people. Jesus told His followers to tell others about Him. Peter said, “Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven.”**

**As Peter said this, the Holy Spirit came down on those who heard the message—not just the Jews, but the Gentiles, or non-Jews, too. The Jewish believers were amazed.**

**Cornelius, his friends, and his relatives were baptized in the name of Jesus, and Peter stayed with them for a few days.**

Christ Connection: God showed Peter that just as there is no “clean” and “unclean”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Provide a visual:** Lay out a bedsheet with toy animals on it while telling the story.

**Act it out:** Perform the actions of Peter as you tell the story.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

food in Christ, there are no “clean” and “unclean” people. God calls believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter who they are or where they come from. Jesus is the Lord of all. ”

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ God wants all people to know Him. Even though Cornelius was not Jewish—he was a Gentile—God wanted Cornelius to know Him and trust in Jesus. God gave Peter a vision to help him understand an important truth. What did Peter see in his vision? [Allow responses.] Peter saw a large sheet coming down from heaven, lowered by its four corners and filled with all kinds of animals. God commanded Peter to kill and eat the animals, but Peter refused. Then God told Peter how He has made all animals clean.

What did Peter’s vision mean? [Allow responses.] Peter understood that salvation in Jesus is offered to all people, everywhere—not just to one group of people. Even though Cornelius was not Jewish, Jesus had come to save him too. Jesus is Lord of all—anyone can trust in Jesus and be saved from their sin. This is good news for all people!

The Holy Spirit came down on all who heard the gospel and believed in Cornelius’ household. They began speaking in other languages and proclaiming God’s greatness, just like the apostles did when the Holy Spirit first came on them. How did Cornelius and his household show they had trusted in Jesus? [Allow responses.] Cornelius and his household were baptized.

It doesn’t matter where anyone is from, what language they speak, what they look like, or what their family is like. Jesus came to offer salvation to all people. All people need to hear the good news so they have an opportunity to trust in Jesus and be saved from their sins. ”

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ God showed Peter that just as there is no “clean” and “unclean” food in Christ, there are no “clean” and “unclean” people. God calls believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter who they are or where they come from. Jesus is the Lord of all. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 32, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why were some foods in the Bible called “unclean”?
2. How can you pray for all people to know and believe in Jesus?

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** “ In September 2022, a new church called Gospel City Church launched in Boynton Beach, Florida. The church meets in a movie theater. The first regular worship service included 77 people, and now the church averages over 100 people. ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Play the missions video. Tell kids that missions is important to Gospel City Church. Share how they encourage kids to take part in missions: Kids might write notes of encouragement to widows or make crafts for those who are sick. They also collected shoe boxes filled with gifts for kids in other parts of the world. Remind kids that Jesus is Lord of all and wants all people, no matter where they're from, to trust in Him. Pray that as the church continues to share the gospel, many people will come to hear and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

✱ Before the session, write one or two words of the key passage on sticky notes. Create enough sticky notes for each kid. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Corinthians 12:12 together.

**SAY** 🗨️ Jesus loves all people and His church is made of all different people. Everyone has an important job to serve others and honor God. 🗨️

✱ Invite a kid to select a sticky note with a word or two of the key passage. Lead him to place his sticky note on the correct spot on the key passage poster. Continue inviting kids to choose a sticky note and place it on the key passage poster.

✱ Lead kids to sing "Many Parts (1 Corinthians 12:12)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** 🗨️ Thank You, Lord, that Your plan for salvation includes all people, both Jews and non-Jews. Please help us share the truth of your gospel with others. In Jesus' name, amen. 🗨️

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**







LOVE

## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### LOVE God by Applying the Story

#### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Acts 10. Tell kids that the book of Acts begins with Jesus going back to heaven and ends with the gospel being taken all the way to Rome. Remind kids that Jesus promised His gospel would go throughout the world. Tell kids that as the gospel reached more places, both Jews and Gentiles had an opportunity to hear the good news.

Consider pointing out the location of Joppa (G2) and Caesarea (E3) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 10:43.

**SAY** 🗨️ When Peter went to Cornelius' house, he preached the gospel. Salvation is made available when people share the good news of Jesus. Even though Cornelius was a God-fearing man and prayed to God, he still needed to hear the gospel and believe. Peter told Cornelius that all the prophets from long ago wrote how anyone can hear the good news of Jesus and trust in Him for the forgiveness of their sins. 🗨️

#### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** 🗨️ How did today's story teach us that Jesus loves everyone? 🗨️

Prompt kids to remember that Jesus does not love one group of people more than another because He died for all people. Discuss how Jesus' death on the cross forgives the sins of anyone who believes in Him. Help kids understand that because Jesus does not show favoritism, we shouldn't either.

**SAY** 🗨️ Is it OK that everyone is different? Why? 🗨️

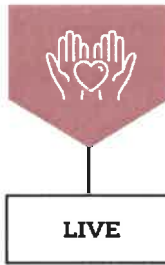
Discuss how God made all people unique and has given us all certain characteristics. Remind kids that all people are made in the image of God and that He loves them. Point out that having differences allows us to serve and love others in unique ways. Discuss how the church is made of many different people.

**SAY** 🗨️ How can we love others who are different from us? 🗨️

Remind kids that because God loves all people, we are called to love all people. Tell kids that the best way to love others is to share Jesus with them. Explain that we can also serve people to show that we love them such as helping a kid at school with homework or being kind to a new kid at school.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** the Mission

#### 1 **ACTIVITY CHOICE** (10 minutes)

##### ☐ **OPTION 1: POPPING PRAYERS**



Remind kids that Gospel City Church meets in a movie theater. Provide each kid with a “Popcorn Box Template” printable. Lead kids to cut out the box on the solid lines. Once kids have cut out the box, direct kids to fold the box on the dotted lines. Secure the bottom of the box using tape. Invite kids to write a short prayer for Gospel City Church on their box. Consider providing each kid with a wrapped, unpopped package of microwave popcorn. Point out that the box may be too small to hold a lot of popcorn but can be used as a reminder to pray for the people of Gospel City Church as they share the gospel.

**SAY** “Share your popcorn box with your friends and family. Perhaps the next time you watch a movie or eat popcorn, you can pray for Gospel City Church as the church shares Jesus with the people of South Florida. We can ask God that He will save people from every tongue, nation, and tribe.”

##### ☐ **OPTION 2: SAME VS. DIFFERENT**



As a group, discuss ways kids are the same and different. Ask broad questions that everyone can answer “yes” or “no” to. Create two categories on a dry erase board and label the Same and Different. When you find something that everyone replies “yes” to, write it in the Same category. When kids don’t answer “yes”, write it in the Different category. For example, you may ask questions like “Do you sleep at night?”, “Do you have a brain?” “Do you need to eat food?” “Do you like to feel loved?” “Do you like pancakes?” “Do you have a dog?” etc.

Then end the activity by asking the questions: “Do you need to be forgiven?” “Do you need a Savior?”

**SAY** “Many things make us different from each other. Those differences are good, and are a part of God’s beautiful design. But God has also made us the same in many ways. We are sinners who need to be forgiven. And we are all people in need of Jesus. Jesus loves us, and He is Lord of all.”

#### 2 **REFLECTION AND PRAYER** (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.