

A CENTURION CONVERTS

Peter and
Cornelius
Acts 10
AD 39

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God's love in Jesus is for everyone.

BIBLE VERSE

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
Romans 10:13

LEARNER GOAL

I know Jesus loves everyone and wants everyone to be saved.

LAW & GOSPEL

I sinfully deny the Gospel is for all humankind. **God forgives me and helps me share the Gospel with others.**

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

A faithful and generous centurion named Cornelius has a vision of God's angel telling him to bring Peter to Caesarea. In Joppa, Peter sees a vision of a sheet descending from the sky, filled with all kinds of animals. The instruction to "kill and eat" confuses Peter since many of the animals on the sheet are considered unclean. The Spirit tells Peter to go to Caesarea. At Cornelius's home, the Holy Spirit descends on the Gentiles as Peter preaches the Gospel to them. Peter commands the Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read the Bible text and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion found in the online digital resource center.

IN-DEPTH Read the article on "The Israelite Diet" in *The Lutheran Study Bible*, page 236.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Play dough or shaving cream, cookie sheets & plastic animals
- ☐ Books about people in other countries or ethnic foods or items
- ☐ Story bag
- ☐ Stuffed animals & pillowcase or towel (optional)
- ☐ Pictures of people from around the world
- ☐ Different kinds of pretzels (round, stick, rods, twists) or types of cookies
- ☐ Craft sticks, index cards & play dough

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- ☐ Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities
- ☐ cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

Greet each child and show the children where to put their offerings. Direct them to an activity that will connect what they know to what they will learn. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.



LEADER NOTE

Sing one or more of the suggested songs.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use “Buddy Talk” to introduce the story.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

SENSORY Spread shaving cream or play dough on the table or on cookie sheets. Set out plastic animals. Let the children “walk” their animals over the surface and look at the different prints (or make handprints). Talk about how real animals have different footprints and colors (or children have different fingerprints), but God made them all. Ask, **Do you think God has favorites?**

CULTURE Set out books about people from different countries or ethnic foods or items (e.g., maracas, ponchos, wooden shoes, Asian-style jacket, African prints or jewelry or baskets). Say, **This [person/item/food] comes from [name of country]. Does God love these people? Today we will hear how God helped Peter learn that God loves everyone and wants them to learn about Him.**

JESUS TIME

SING “Good Morning, Dear Jesus” (digital resource center) or “Jesus Loves the Little Children” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 94)

SAY Stand up if you love Jesus. Jump if Jesus loves you. Sit down again if Jesus loves all the people in the world. Today we’ll hear how one of Jesus’ friends learned that Jesus loves everyone and wants them to believe in Him.

PRAY Thank You, Jesus,* for saving us from our sins.* Help all the people* in the world* know how much* You love them.* In Your name.* Amen.*

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Put the stickers of Jesus’ face in a heart in a story bag (Sticker Page). Ask, **Are you ready to hear another true story from God’s Word? Accept answers. But before I tell the Bible story, I want everyone who is wearing blue to put his or her hand up. Show bag. I brought something for you because you’re special. Hand out stickers. Hearts remind us of love. These stickers show Jesus’ face, so they will help you remember that Jesus loves you. In fact, today’s story about God’s love is just for those wearing stickers. Because you are special. Pause. Do you think it’s true that only those with stickers are special? No! You *all* are special to Jesus and to me! I really have stickers for all of you because Jesus loves you all! Hand out the rest.**

Our Bible story today is about how God loves all of us too, no matter how big or small we are, no matter what color our skin is or where we live. God’s love is so big, He sent Jesus to be the Savior of all people.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. *Option:* Put a variety of stuffed animals in big towel or pillowcase as you tell about Peter’s dream.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Say, **God loves everyone. Point. He loves you and you and you and me. He loves moms and dads and all the people you know. He loves all the people you don’t know. Show pictures of people from around the world. God doesn’t love one of us more than the other. All of us do wrong things. God doesn’t love us because we’re good. And He doesn’t stop loving us when we’re bad. Because He loves us, He sent Jesus to be the Savior of all people. The Bible tells us, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13). Say the verse with the children.**

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with each child, or put the page into a purchased binder. Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Have the children color the animals and look for hidden crosses. Connect Peter's dream to the crosses as you review the story.

SIDE 2 Use this page to reinforce how God sent Jesus to be the Savior of all people. Have the children connect the lines and color the cross, then add a sticker of Jesus' face to the center of it. Ask the children to look at the pictures and put a heart sticker by all the people Jesus loves (all of them). Say, **Jesus loves everyone! That means He loves you and me and your moms and dads and all the people you know. He loves the people you don't know. He loves the people on this page! He loves people everywhere. He came to offer forgiveness to everyone.**

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active-learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Get the children moving with a song.

□ SNACK

Serve a variety of pretzels or cookies. Provide allergy-free cookies or pretzels for those with allergies.

□ CREATE

Make children puppets to role-play ways to share Jesus' love and tell about Him.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Do the children understand that Jesus doesn't love only people like us or only "good" people? He loves everyone and came to save all people from their sins. He wants us to share this Good News. Ask, **Whom does Jesus love? What are ways we can tell about Jesus?**

LEAVE

SING "Father, Hear My Prayer" (digital resource center) or
"This Little Gospel Light of Mine" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 103)

SAY God loves us and sent Jesus to save us from our sins. He wants all people to know Jesus and to be saved.

PRAY Dear Jesus, You are so wonderful! Thank You for coming to earth to pay for our sins so we can be forgiven and be Your children. Thank You for pastors and missionaries and others who tell about You. Help us tell others too. Amen.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus came to offer forgiveness to everyone.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use "Missionary Talk" to learn about sharing the Gospel around the world.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Play "Green Light Circle Game" to allow the children to practice telling about Jesus.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

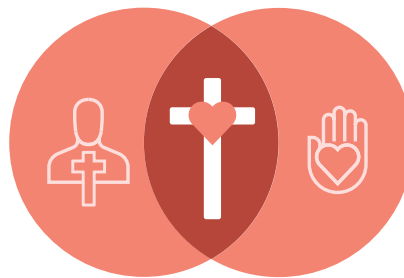
Sing “Hello, Everybody” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 7). Talk about how we are all different. We have different colors of hair or skin. We wear different colors of clothes. We like different kinds of food or animals. But one thing is the same. Jesus loves us all and wants everyone in the world to believe in Him so they can be forgiven and live with Him forever.

□ SNACK

Give the children a variety of different pretzels (small stick, circle, twists, large rods, chocolate-covered) or at least three types of cookies (chocolate chip, vanilla sandwich, chocolate covered, fortune, etc.). Use investigation skills to observe how the pretzels or cookies all look different, and may even taste different, but they are all pretzels or cookies. Say, **People look different from one another too, but God loves everyone. Jesus didn’t come to be just our Savior. He came to be the Savior of all people.**

□ CREATE

Have the children attach the four child stickers to index cards. Trim around stickers, attach to craft sticks, and mount in play dough. Say, **Jesus loves everyone and wants all people to know He is their Savior.** Model using the puppets to role-play ways we can do this: One puppet can tell another what he learned about Jesus in Sunday School. A puppet can tell about a time she did something naughty and how Jesus forgave her. Another can say, “Jesus loves you,” and so on. Assure the children that Jesus forgives us for times we don’t tell about Him or show His love for others. He will help us do this.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God calls all people to Himself through His Word.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can share the Word of God with others in my life, no matter their background or past.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can analyze the text for insights into what it means that God’s love in Jesus is for everyone.

YOUTH

I can show from the text that God’s love in Jesus is for all people in every time and every place.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God’s love in Jesus is for everyone.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know Jesus loves everyone and wants everyone to be saved.

★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

BUDDY TALK

10 minutes

Buddy comes in crying. When asked, he says he’s sad because he never gets picked for anything. He’s never first in line. He never gets to hand out napkins or the snack. He says it’s not fair that others get to do things and go places but he doesn’t. Commiserate with him, then say, **But God doesn’t play favorites! He picked you to be His child. He sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise for you because He loves you. God loves everyone and wants them all to hear about Jesus. Today we’ll hear more about that.**

MISSIONARY TALK

15 minutes

Skype or video chat with a missionary in a different country. Ask the missionary to arrange for some of the people, especially children, he serves to talk too. Ask him to talk about what the people wear, where they live, what they do, what they eat. Children can share games they play and what they do too. Ask him to talk about how he shares about Jesus with the people there. Afterward, say a class prayer for the people and the work of sharing the Good News about Jesus in their country.

GREEN LIGHT CIRCLE GAME

15 minutes

Cut out big circles from green and red construction paper. Sit in a circle. Give a child a cross. Say, **When I hold up the green circle, pass the cross to the friend next to you and say, “Jesus loves you and died for you.” When I hold up the red circle, hold the cross until I hold up the green circle again. Then pass the cross and share the good news.** Go around circle a few times. Talk about how easy it was to tell about Jesus’ love. Say, **Jesus will help you tell your family and friends and others about Him too.**