

Family Worship

Peter and Cornelius

1·11·2020

Opening Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for our family.

And thank you for the privilege of coming together for worship.

Help us to understand Your Word and obey it with a joyful heart.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Worthy is the Lamb

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LApIJ0_jDFc



Catechism Time!

Bible truths for teaching children

Question 23

Q: Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

A: Because of his divine nature, his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective.

Bible verse (Acts 2:24)

God raised Jesus from death. God set him free from the pain of death. Death could not hold him.

All Lives Matter

You may have heard in the news...Black Lives Matter

Well, to God, All Lives Matter

Today we will hear a story that teaches us

All Lives Matter to God !



Meet Peter and Cornelius

(Acts 10: 1-48)

Peter

- ❑ Peter was a Jewish fisherman who became a leader of the early Church
- ❑ Jews believed they were chosen by God to be special. They looked down on non-Jews
- ❑ Jews followed food laws & avoided some food, e.g. pork, camel
- ❑ Jews would not visit non-Jews' homes

Cornelius

- ❑ Cornelius was an army officer in charge of 100 men
- ❑ He wasn't a Jew but he worshipped the God of Israel
- ❑ Mars was the god most soldiers in the Roman army worshiped
- ❑ So it was unusual for Cornelius to worship the God of Israel

Let's Open Up the Bible

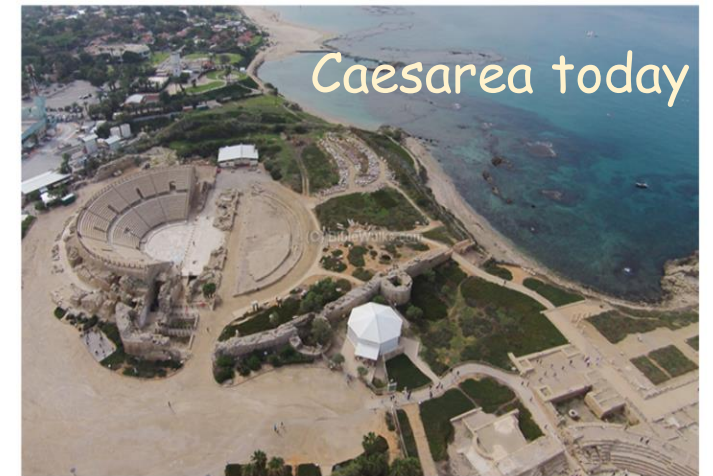
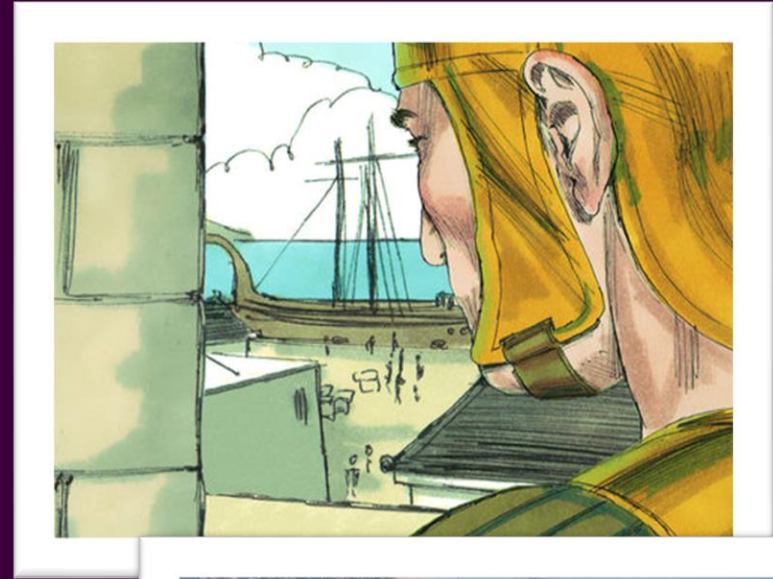
Acts 10: 1-48

Cornelius' Story

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius. He was an officer (a centurion) in the Italian group of the Roman army. Cornelius was a religious man. He and all the other people who lived in his house worshiped the true God. He gave much of his money to the poor and prayed to God often.

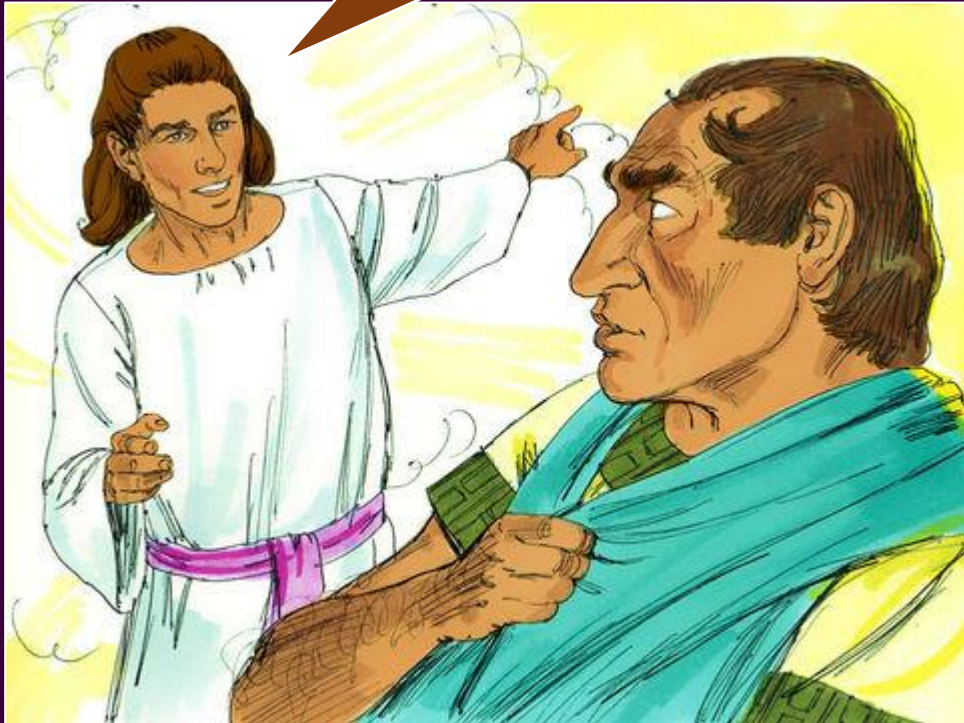
One afternoon about three o'clock (prayer time), Cornelius saw a vision clearly. In the vision an angel of God came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

Cornelius stared at the angel. He became afraid and said, "What do you want, Lord?"



Cornelius' Story

God remembers you



The angel said, "God has heard your prayers. He has seen what you give to the poor. And God remembers you."

Send some men now to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon. Simon is also called Peter. Simon is staying with a man, also named Simon, who is a leatherworker. He has a house beside the sea."

Then the angel who spoke to Cornelius left. Cornelius called two of his servants and a soldier. The soldier was a religious man who worked for Cornelius. Cornelius explained everything to these three men and sent them to Joppa.

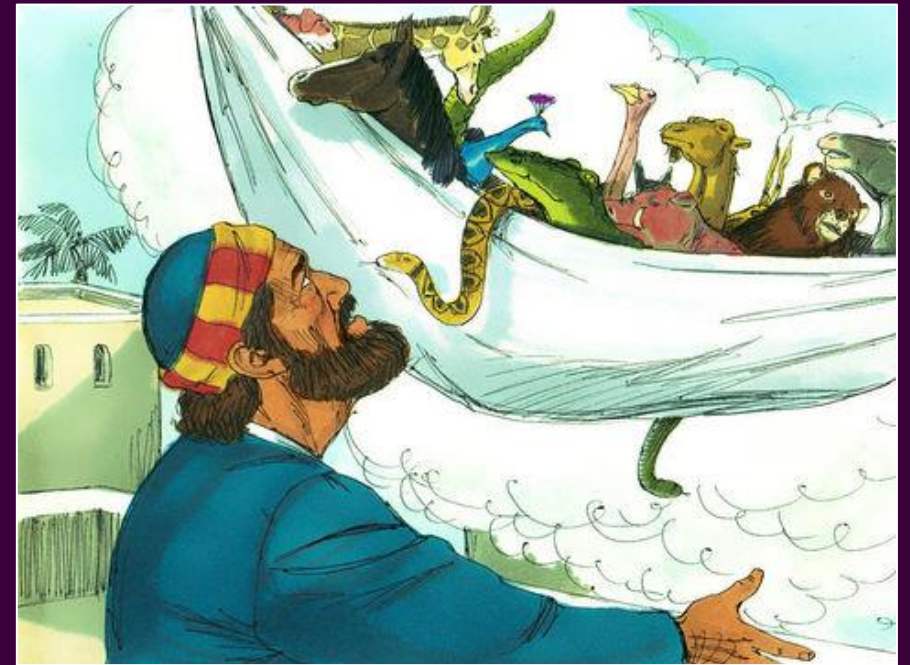
Peter's Story

The next day as they came near Joppa, Peter was going up to the roof to pray. It was about noon. Peter was hungry and wanted to eat. But while the food was being prepared, he had a vision. He saw heaven opened and something coming down. It looked like a big sheet being lowered to earth by its four corners. In it were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and birds. Then a voice said to Peter, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat."

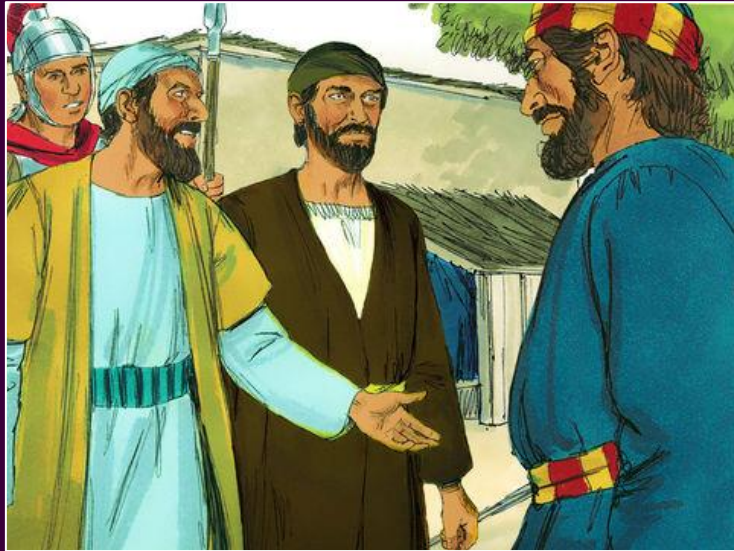
But Peter said, "No, Lord! I have never eaten food that is unholy or unclean."

But the voice said to him again, "God has made these things clean. Don't call them 'unholy!'" This happened three times. Then the sheet was taken back to heaven.

While Peter was wondering what this vision meant, the men Cornelius sent had found Simon's house. They were standing at the gate. They asked, "Is Simon Peter staying here?"



Peter's Story



Peter was still thinking about the vision. But the Spirit said to him, "Listen! Three men are looking for you. Get up and go downstairs. Go with them and don't ask questions. I have sent them to you." So Peter went down to the men. He said, "I am the man you are looking for. Why did you come here?"

They said, "A holy angel spoke to Cornelius, an army officer. He is a good man; he worships God. All the Jewish people respect him. The angel told Cornelius to ask you to his house so that he can hear what you have to say." Peter asked the men to come in and spend the night.

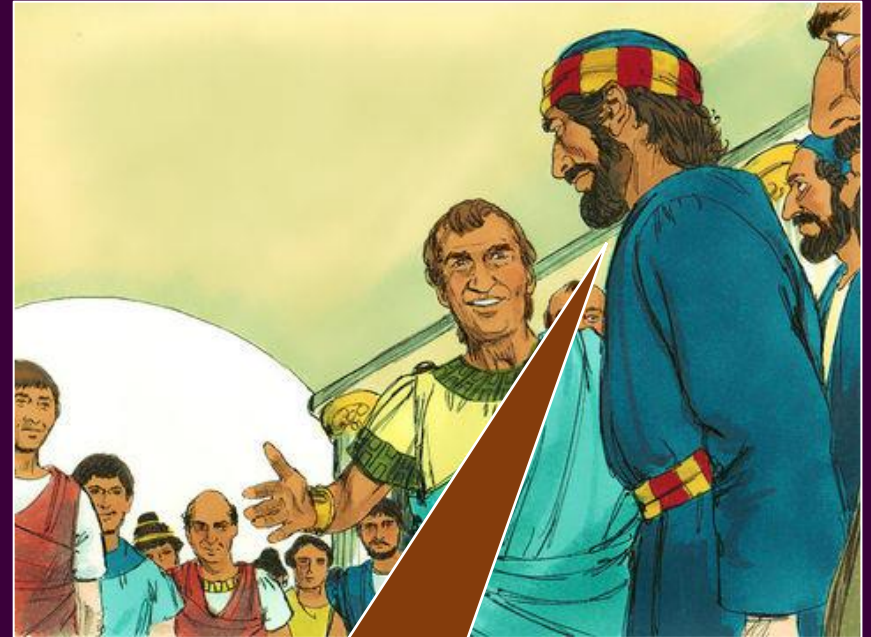
The next day Peter got ready and went with them. Some of the brothers from Joppa joined him. On the following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them. He had called together his relatives and close friends.

Peter Met Cornelius

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him. He fell at Peter's feet and worshiped him. But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up! I too am only a man." Peter went on talking with Cornelius as they went inside.

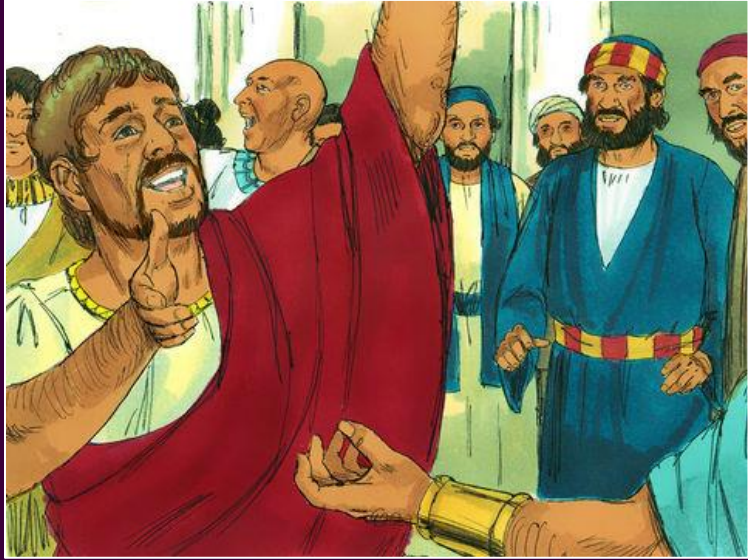
There Peter saw many people together. He said, "You people understand that it is against our Jewish law for a Jew to associate with or visit anyone who is not a Jew. **But God has shown me that I should not call any person 'unholy' or 'unclean.'** That is why I did not argue when I was asked to come here. Now, please tell me why you sent for me."

So Cornelius told Peter about the angel.



But God has shown me that I should not call any person 'unholy' or 'unclean.'

Peter Met Cornelius



Peter said, "I really understand now that to God every person is the same. God accepts anyone who worships him and does what is right. It is not important what country a person comes from." Then Peter shared the Good News of Jesus...



While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been given even to the non-Jewish people. These Jewish believers heard them speaking in different languages and praising God!

Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we did!" So Peter ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Jewish and Non-Jewish Christians

- ❑ The church was born in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost
- ❑ Initially all believers were Jews...but soon persecution broke out
- ❑ The Good News then spread outside Jerusalem, even to non-Jews ("Gentiles")
- ❑ This is great but important questions arose...
 - Do Gentile Christians have to follow Jewish customs?
 - Are Gentile Christians "second class" compared to Jewish Christians?
 - Was salvation through "Jesus only" or "Jesus and Jewish Customs"?

Questions

1. Who was Cornelius? Which of following is incorrect?
 - He was a brave soldier which was why he was a centurion in charge of 100 men
 - He was a Jew
 - He and his household worshipped the God of Israel
 - He helped the poor
2. What was Peter doing when he saw animals on a big sheet? What was Cornelius doing when the angel appeared to him? They were (a) Having lunch (b) Talking to people (c) Praying.
3. Did Peter immediately understand the meaning of his vision? (see the yellow words in the passage)
4. Peter's vision is really about
 - Eating "clean" or "unclean" food
 - Washing hands before a meal
 - God accepts anyone who worships him and does what is right, no matter which country the person comes from

Questions

5. Peter finally met Cornelius. While Peter was still speaking about Jesus, the Holy Spirit came onto Cornelius, his relatives and friends. What happened to them?
6. Why were the Jewish Christians amazed when they saw the Holy Spirit coming onto the non-Jewish people?
7. God gave the Holy Spirit to both Jewish and Gentile believers. This proves one of the following. Which one?
 - Besides believing in Jesus, you have to follow Jewish customs to be saved
 - Christians from other countries are not as loved by God as Jewish Christians
 - God grants salvation to everyone who believes in Jesus no matter where he/she is from
8. Cornelius invited his relatives and close friends to hear Peter sharing the Good News. What can we learn from Cornelius?
9. Who are your relatives and friends you want to share the Good News with? You can start praying for them.

Summary

□ All lives matter

- "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

□ All Christians are one family

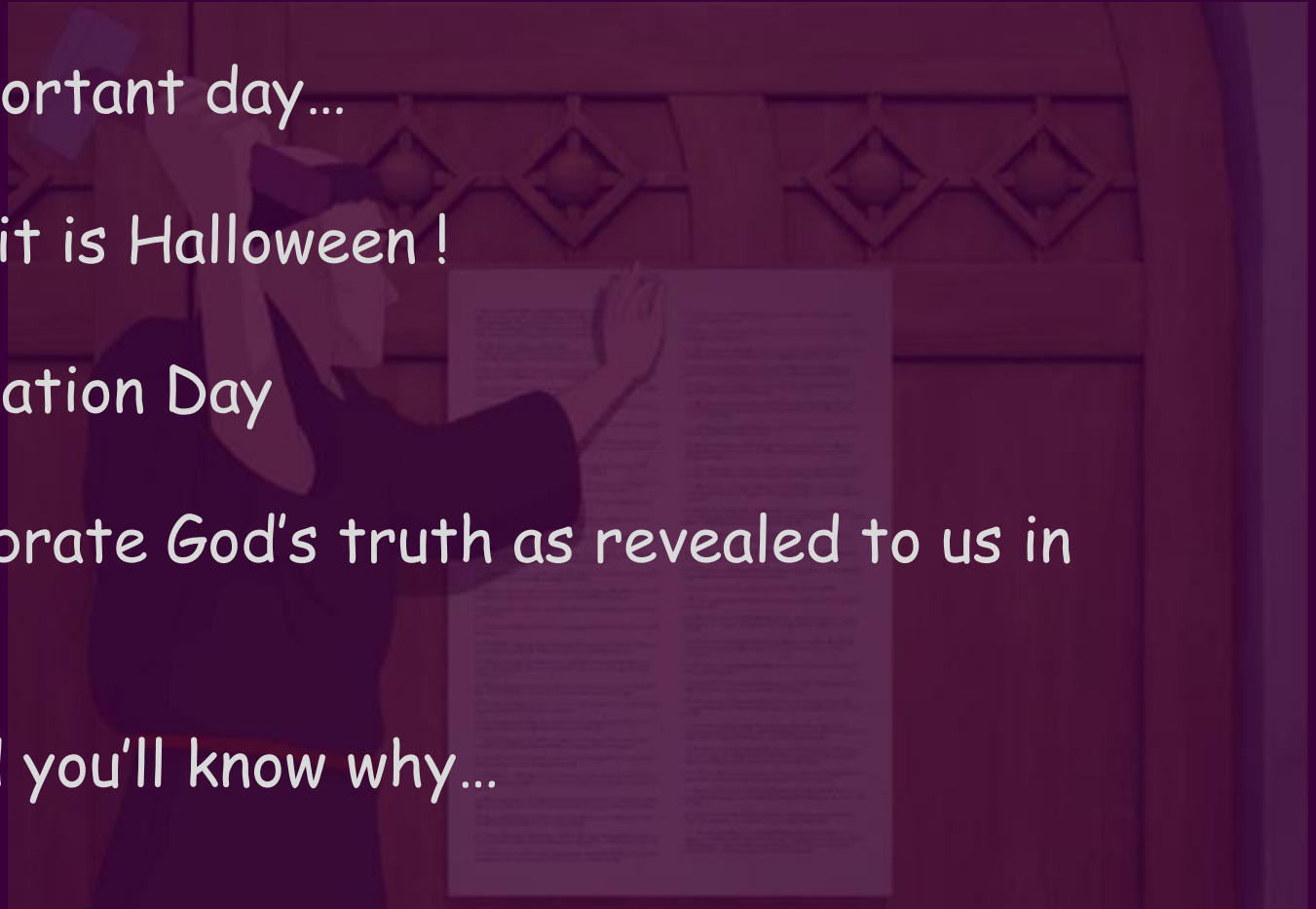
- "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

Reformation Day

31 October

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqIZPNskJpY&list=PLe1p1yknU7cX5J06QHIMTrdT8fTuTi-ZS>

- ❑ 31 October is an important day...
- ❑ Most of you will say it is Halloween !
- ❑ But it is also Reformation Day
- ❑ On this day, we celebrate God's truth as revealed to us in the Bible
- ❑ Watch the video and you'll know why...



Family Prayer Time

1. Thank God for His Word and help so we may learn from Him.
2. Ask your children to pray for what they have learned just now.
3. Ask your family how you can pray for them specifically.

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Jesus Loves You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVTAOvZV1HM>



在世上 沒有任何的困苦愁煩
Even when we go through suffering and hardship