

September 8
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL
(Acts 10)

CHRIST CONNECTION: God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter what. Jesus is the Lord of all.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together. 1 Corinthians 12:12

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite children to join you in the large group. Pass around **toy vehicles (find these in the classroom)**. Ask children what each is used for (travel) and talk about going on a trip, traveling, etc.

SAY Today when people need to go somewhere, they might just get into the car and go. Or they can buy an airplane or boat ticket and go. In Bible times, travel was not that easy. Today, we will learn about a time Peter had to travel to Cornelius' house to tell Cornelius and his family about Jesus. God sent Peter a special vision to help Peter understand that Jesus is for everyone. Peter knew God wanted him to tell Cornelius and his family about Jesus. Let's find out what happened!

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY Our big picture question is, **What is the church?** Do you remember the answer? **The church is all Christians everywhere.** Peter learned that both Jews and non-Jews could be Christians and be part of the church. Anyone who trusts in Jesus is a Christian and is part of the church.

4. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the passage and invite preschoolers to repeat it after you. Continue asking preschoolers to repeat the key passage after you, but each time invite preschoolers to repeat the passage in a voice that sounds like an animal, such as a snake or a bird.

SAY The church is sometimes called the body of Christ. Our key passage says that the body of Christ, or the church, has many parts, or members. In today's story, Peter learned that the church was bigger than he thought! He knew that the Jewish people could be part of the church, but he learned that other people could be a part of the church too.

5. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Review today's Bible story by asking the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
2. Who gave Peter the power to heal people and tell others about Jesus? (*God*)

3. What are some of the amazing things God used Peter to do in this story? *(Peter healed Aeneas and raised Dorcas from the dead.)*
4. How do you think Dorcas' friends and family felt to know she as alive? *(Preschoolers' answers will vary.)*
5. What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

SAY *Peter was a leader of the church when it was just beginning. Remember, the church is not the buildings, but all the people who trust in Jesus and are Christians. God used Peter to heal people using miracles. These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus is still alive and still uses His church to do miracles and to love and serve others.*

6. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY Dear Jesus, thank You that You came to save everyone, not just some people. Everyone who believes that You died for their sin and rose again is a Christian, no matter who they are or what they have done. Help us to trust in You every day and to share the good news about You with others. Amen.

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES BELOW)

LEAD A MARCH

Form preschoolers into two lines and guide them on a march around the room or around the church building. Follow your church's procedures for traveling outside the classroom. Consider inviting preschoolers to repeat this chant after you line by line:

"I don't know what I've been told," *(I don't know what I've been told)*

"Jesus died for young and old." *(Jesus died for young and old.)*

"I think marching's so much fun." *(I think marching's so much fun.)*

"The good news is for everyone!" *(The good news is for everyone!)*

SAY *What did our march today remind us of? Did you feel like soldiers? Cornelius from today's story was a Roman soldier. God heard Cornelius's prayer and brought Peter to Cornelius so he could believe in Jesus and be baptized. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do.*

MAKE PLAY DOUGH ANIMALS

Give each child some **play dough**. Place animal-shaped cookie cutters within reach of children. Demonstrate flattening the play dough and pressing the cutter down to create an animal. Review the Bible story while children work. Ask them to tell about their animal creations and why they chose to make that animal. Remind children that God used the vision to help Peter understand that Jesus is for everyone.

SAY *In Bible times, people who were from different places did not always talk to one another or share the same beliefs about God. God helped Peter understand that Jesus wants everyone to know about Him. Because Peter shared the good news about Jesus with Cornelius, Cornelius and his family and friends believed and were baptized.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

As children color, talk about the Christ Connection.

SAY *God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do. Jesus is the Lord of all. .*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

If you plan to use the Storytelling Tips, you will need to gather those materials beforehand.

Open your Bible to Acts 10 and tell the following Bible story. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL

STORYTELLING TIPS

Demonstrate the sheet with animals: Place several plastic toy animals on a handkerchief or other piece of fabric. Invite four children to hold the corners and raise, lower, and raise the handkerchief as directed in the Bible story.

Show key words: Write important words from the story onto index cards (Cornelius, pray, Peter, house, Jesus). As you tell the story, show the printed words on the cards to engage your early readers and visual learners.

Cornelius was a Roman soldier. He loved God, helped other people, and prayed to God. One day, God sent an angel to Cornelius. The angel said, “Cornelius, God heard you when you prayed.”

The angel told Cornelius to send some men into the city to find Peter. So Cornelius sent two servants and one soldier into the city.

In the city, Peter went up on the roof of a house to pray. Then Peter saw a vision. A vision is like a dream, but Peter was awake. He saw a big sheet coming down from heaven. In the sheet were all kinds of animals, snakes and lizards, and birds. A voice said, “Get up, Peter. Eat!”

But Peter didn’t want to. He thought the animals were unclean. A voice said, “God has made these clean.” Peter saw the vision three times, and he tried to figure out what it meant.

Then the men Cornelius sent into the city found the house where Peter was staying. They told Peter to come to Cornelius’ house. So the next day, Peter went with the men.

When Peter saw Cornelius, he told him that the good news about Jesus is for all people, not just Jews. “Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven,” Peter said.

The people there believed. Cornelius, his family, and his friends were baptized; and Peter stayed with them for a few days.

Christ Connection: God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do. Jesus is the Lord of all.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child’s sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today’s activity page to reinforce today’s Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

September 8
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds

PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL
(Acts 10)

CHRIST CONNECTION: God gave Peter power to do miracles like Jesus.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite children to join you in the large group. Pass around **toy vehicles (find these in the classroom)**. Ask children what each is used for (travel) and talk about going on a trip, traveling, etc.

SAY Today when people need to go somewhere, they might just get into the car and go. Or they can buy an airplane or boat ticket and go. In Bible times, travel was not that easy. Today, we will learn about a time Peter had to travel to Cornelius' house to tell Cornelius and his family about Jesus. God sent Peter a special vision to help Peter understand that Jesus is for everyone. Peter knew God wanted him to tell Cornelius and his family about Jesus. Let's find out what happened!

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

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3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the **key passage phrase marker** at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead preschoolers to learn the key passage phrase. Pass a **beanbag** around the circle as you say the phrase together twice.

SAY *Peter was part of the early church. He had work to do helping others learn about Jesus. Sometimes his work meant making sick people well, like Aeneas, other times it meant bringing someone back to life, like Dorcas. But most of the time, Peter taught people about Jesus. God also used Dorcas to help people know about Jesus. She helped people in need. God uses people in the church today to help others to know and follow Him. Everyone in the church works together.*

ACTIVITIES

PLAY FREEZE GAME

Play **upbeat worship music** on an **electronic device**. Encourage toddlers to dance along with the music. Guide toddlers to freeze when the music stops. When the music stops, state "Jesus is for everyone!" Resume music and replay as interest allows. Review the Bible story.

SAY *What was the good news that God showed Peter? Yes! God showed Peter that Jesus is for everyone! Peter told Cornelius this good news. We can share that good news with others today!*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the GOSPEL GEMS below:

- Peter saw a vision of animals that God made clean.
- Peter told Cornelius good news: Jesus is for everyone!
- Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven.

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Open the Bible to Acts 10 and tell the following Bible story:

Cornelius loved God. One day, an angel told Cornelius to send some men into the city to find Peter. So Cornelius sent two servants and one soldier. In the city, Peter saw a vision. He saw a big sheet coming down from heaven with all kinds of animals, snakes and lizards, and birds. A voice said, "God has made these clean." The men sent by Cornelius found Peter and invited him to Cornelius' house. When Peter saw Cornelius, he told him good news: Jesus is for all people. Peter said, "Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven." Cornelius, his family, and his friends believed in Jesus and were baptized.

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.