

Hey ClubE!

I hope you had a lovely week. I know I did! This week, I spent a lot of time outside and got a new puppy! I hope this week was full of happy surprises for you. I miss you!

1. Watch my [short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today.
2. Sharing time. Our question today: Who is someone you met that was completely different than you expected?
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to it [here](#)) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Optional: Do experiment/activity!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

Storytime!

Hello, friends! Have you ever met someone and thought you knew what they were like... but then you discovered there was so much more to them than you realized? I know I have. People are always surprising me! It can be so easy for us to think we know people without really getting to know them.

One of Jesus' followers named Peter discovered that in a big way. Let me set the scene for you. The early church was growing quickly. Peter traveled from town to town, sharing the good news about Jesus and healing sick people. In a town called Joppa, Peter even raised a dead woman to life through the power of God's Spirit! Many people in Joppa became believers. So, Peter stayed there for a while with a man named Simon—a leather worker who lived right beside the sea.

Meanwhile, there was a Roman army commander named Cornelius who lived in Caesarea. Cornelius wasn't Jewish, but he and his family worshipped God and were very generous with anyone in need. Cornelius often prayed to God. One day, while he was praying, God sent an angel to him in a vision. The angel told Cornelius to send men to Joppa and bring back a man named Simon who was also called Peter. Read Acts 10:5-6 (NirV) and read, "Now send men to Joppa. Have them bring back a man named Simon. He is also called Peter. He is staying with another Simon, a man who works with leather. His house is by the sea."

Cornelius did as the angel said. He called two servants and one of his soldiers, and he sent them to Joppa to find Peter. About noon the next day, Peter went up on the roof of the house to pray. He got hungry while he prayed, and he wanted something to eat. While the meal was being prepared for him, Peter had a vision. Check it out. This is pretty wild. Read Acts 10:11-12 (NirV), "He saw heaven open up. There he saw something that looked like a large

sheet. It was being let down to earth by its four corners. It had all kinds of four-footed animals in it. It also had reptiles and birds in it. “

Okay—wow. A large sheet filled with creatures! I have no idea what that would have looked like. Listen to what happened next. Open the Bible to Acts 10:13-16 (NirV) and read, “Then a voice told him, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’ ‘No, Lord! I will not!’ Peter replied. ‘I have never eaten anything that is not pure and ‘clean.’” The voice spoke to him a second time. It said, ‘Do not say anything is not pure that God has made ‘clean.’” This happened three times. Right away the sheet was taken back up to heaven.”

You see, Jewish people were forbidden to eat the meat of these kinds of animals, which were called ‘unclean’ according to God in the Old Testament. As you might imagine, Peter was a bit confused by all of this. He wondered what this vision meant. JUST then, the men sent by Cornelius arrived at the house. They asked if Peter was staying there. God’s Spirit spoke to Peter and told him to go with them. The men told Peter that Cornelius had sent them. Peter then invited them to be his guests. Here’s a little more information you should know: Just like it was forbidden for Jewish people to eat certain foods, it was also against the rules for a Jew to enter the home of a non-Jew. At some point, Peter realized that God was telling him to do just that. Peter understood that God was making new rules about what was ‘clean.’ The story of Jesus was not just for Jews, but for every single person, everywhere in the world.

The next day, Peter and Cornelius’ men set out on their journey to see Cornelius. Some of the other believers from Joppa came along. They arrived in Caesarea and went to Cornelius’ house. This was a big deal for Peter, because he had never once stepped foot inside the home of a non-Jew. Cornelius was so happy that Peter had come that he had gathered all of his relatives and friends in his house to hear from Peter. Now, Cornelius was an important man, but he lowered himself to the ground before Peter as a sign of deep respect. I’m sure Peter appreciated this respect being shown to him, but he told Cornelius to stand up. He said, ‘I am only a man myself.’ (Acts 10:26, NirV) Cornelius then explained everything the angel had told him. Then, it was Peter’s turn. Peter shared with everyone how God had sent Jesus to share God’s love. He told them how Jesus had taught and healed people through God’s power. Then, he told how Jesus had been killed on the cross, and how God had raised Him to life, again. He even told them how they had seen Jesus and had a meal with Him AFTER He died, and that Jesus had told them to share His story with everyone. Finally, he told them how everyone who believes in Jesus has their sins forgiven in Jesus’ name!

While Peter spoke, God sent His Holy Spirit to Cornelius and his family and friends. The Jewish believers who had come with Peter were amazed: God had given His Spirit to these new believers, even though they weren’t Jewish! Peter then baptized Cornelius and all of his family and friends in the name of Jesus. Peter stayed with them for several days. His view of other people had totally changed! Peter understood this: Knowing Jesus changes the way you see others. Because of Peter’s faith in Jesus, he was able to see that God’s Story really is for everyone. Peter knew Jesus, so he was willing to see others the way Jesus did. As a result, the lives of many, many people were changed forever!

Let's talk about it!

- Do you think you always have an expectation for other people to be a certain way? Why or why not?
- Do you think those expectations make it harder to share about Jesus?
- Why do you think God chose to speak to Peter through a vision? Do you think God can still speak to us today?
- **Hearing** God's comes with **knowing** God and his voice. How are you going to **know** God better this week?
- God wants EVERYONE to receive the gift of Jesus. What actions can you take to share this good news with others?

Pray

Dear God, thank You for loving EVERYONE. Thank You for inviting ALL of us to be part of Your Big Story. Sometimes, when we see people who are different from us, it's hard for us to remember to reach out and get to know them. Thank You for reminding us, today, that You want us to love and include EVERYONE around us—not just the people who are most like us. Please, help us to see other people the way You do. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen.

Game time!

SIMPLE ACTS

We will watch how a simple line drawn on the tissue can change how the entire tissue looks! In the same way, knowing Jesus changes the way you see others. When you know Jesus and His story, you understand that Jesus is for everyone, not just certain people. God made each and every person on earth, and He sent Jesus for each of those people, too. When we learn to see people like Jesus does, we can speak up for them and show them love, no matter if they are just like us or if they're super different from us. This might mean being kind to someone who gets on your nerves. It might mean sharing your toys with your sibling or helping a stranger by opening a door for them at a store. There are LOTS of ways you can show love to others.

WHAT YOU NEED: Personal-size tissues, plastic cups, water, thick watercolor markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Get your tissue ready-- keep it folded! (If you're using regular-size tissues, instruct kids to fold the tissue in half, horizontally, then fold it into thirds, vertically.)
- Use marker to draw a fat line on the tissue, about half an inch from the bottom.
- Then, flip the tissue over to the other side and repeat the process using the same watercolor marker.
- Carefully open the tissue and make sure that the ink bled through all of the layers, forming one long line.
- Then, they refold the tissue.
- Get your plastic cup filled about one-third of the way with water.
- Gradually insert the tissue into the water just to the marker line. Watch as the marker color runs up the tissue.
- NOTE: To see a demonstration of this experiment, go to <http://bit.ly/2urepOT> at 3:13 minutes.

BE AN ENCOURAGER!

Peter was faithful and LISTENED and ACTED on what God was telling him. Let's do that today!

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, pencil, and (possibly a stamp :))

WHAT YOU DO: Pray and ask God if there is someone that you should encourage today! It might be someone you're close to, or maybe someone you haven't spoken to in a while! Ask God, listen, and then go and encourage!