



WEEK
THREE
JUNE 2023

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Walk Right In
Peter Goes to the
House of Cornelius
Acts 10

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When have you changed your
mind about someone?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can change the way
you see others.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"Faith is being sure of what
we hope for. It is being sure
of what we do not see."**
Hebrews 11:1, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Faith—Trusting in what
you can't see because of
what you can see**

BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters holding a balloon.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Welcome once again to [Name of Environment]! I hope you're ready and set to move, because today starts out with an obstacle course for the ages. We're talking epic. And with balloons. Today just might be the greatest day of your life. Let's play a game I like to call 'Balloon-A-Rama!'"

SLIDE: "BALLOON-A-RAMA"

"I need four teams of four!"

Host chooses sixteen people and arranges them into four teams. A starting and ending line are set for each team ahead of time. Host hands out a balloon to each group.

"Your goal is simple: get the balloon from the starting line, down to the end line, and back. Hand it off, and next person goes, and you've got yourself a typical relay race.



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“But wait! This is [Name of Environment], do you actually think it would be just a normal race? Of course not.

“Person 1, you will use a pool noodle as a golf club to golf your balloon across the line and back. You must hold the pool noodle at the top on the tape lines.

“Persons 2 & 3, you’ll work together to hit it back and forth with these paddles as you run down together. You must alternate hits!

“Person 4, you must stick the balloon between your legs and run down like a penguin. If the balloon drops or pops, start over!

“Everybody got it? Here we go!

AUDIO: FUN BACKGROUND MUSIC

*Host gets the four lines set and hands out supplies. Play with other groups if time allows.
Provide commentary during game.*

(After the game) You know, I really think that the Olympics should add ballooning into their line-up of world-wide sports. I bet they’d get a lot more viewers. In the meantime, let’s stand, gather together, and lift up a praise to our amazing God. Let’s worship!”



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “How is everyone? It’s so good to be with you all today!

“You know how there are just some things in life that seem to go together? Peanut butter and jelly, hot summer days and popsicles, puppies and warm fuzzies?

“In contrast with things that go well together, there are things that might . . . well, not. Like gummy bears and pepperoni. Let’s hear from you—I’ll need three volunteers.

Communicator brings up three volunteers and hands each a small white board and marker.

“Things that don’t mix—like oil and water. I’ll throw out a phrase, and I want each of you (*volunteers*) to fill in the blank with something that would not mix with that. We’ll let everyone else vote for the worst; or best, depending on your point of view. Let’s get started!

Play the game, having each volunteer turn around their white boards one at a time to reveal their answers. Take a Large Group vote on each phrase, choosing the best answer. If time permits, change out the volunteers each phrase as well.

SLIDE: INTRODUCTION SLIDE 1 (PEANUT BUTTER AND _____)

SLIDE: INTRODUCTION SLIDE 2 (BRUSHING YOUR TEETH AND _____)

SLIDE: INTRODUCTION SLIDE 3 (FRENCH FRIES AND _____)

SLIDE: INTRODUCTION SLIDE 4 (AN UPSET STOMACH AND _____)

SLIDE: INTRODUCTION SLIDE 5 (BARBECUE SAUCE AND _____)

“Okay, that’s a trick phrase. Barbecue sauce goes with everything. There is nothing you could put here that doesn’t mix.

Communicator has each volunteer reveal their answer.

“You have proven me wrong. And I will never look at that sauce the same again, because that was disgusting.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Anyway! It’s one thing to mismatch foods and find things that don’t go well together, but what about when people don’t match well together? Like a study partner who has their own way of doing things or a sibling who doesn’t let you pick the music on the way to school. How do you get along with people you don’t mix with? Or those who you don’t agree with?”



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“Great questions—definitely something we should think about! Well, when we have questions like this, one of the first places we should check out is the Bible. In the Bible, we find all sorts of wisdom from people who experienced God in their lives and were inspired to write down what they learned. And now, thousands of years later, we can have a relationship with God and learn the best way to live just by checking out what they wrote down. Let’s check out a story that deals with sharing God’s love and, more importantly . . . with whom.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “We’ve been finding out a lot this month about the very first Jesus-followers. These people started the first churches after Jesus went back to heaven. The churches grew as the believers told more and more people about Jesus with the help of God’s Holy Spirit.

If you’re using a Bible timeline on your wall, you can reference it here as you recap.

“The church was growing, but that doesn’t mean life was easy for these early Jesus-followers. In Jerusalem, people tried to stop the believers . . . so a lot of them had to leave their homes and scatter to other places. But they continued to tell others about Jesus and share about everything He had done. We’ve talked about a guy named Saul for the past couple of weeks, but today, we pick up with Peter. You might remember that he was one of Jesus’ closest disciples.

“Now, before we jump into Peter’s story, it might help to have some context. Way back in the book of Genesis, we can read about how God called a man named Abraham and promised to make his name great and to make a great nation through him. Abraham eventually had a son named Isaac, who eventually had a son named Jacob. Jacob’s name was changed to Israel after an interesting wrestling match with God, and he had twelve sons. Each of these sons grew into tribes, like the tribe of Judah, the tribe of Levi, and so on.

“God had taken one man, Abraham, and grown an entire nation from his lineage. The nation of Israel believed God called them to be a special nation—to live differently from others, which included what they ate, what they wore, how they worshipped, who they associated with, and the law they lived by. The people of Israel, or Israelites, stood out from the non-Israelites around them. Those non-Israelites? The Jewish people called them . . . Gentiles.

“The Gentiles and Jews were very different from each other. They lived differently. They ate differently. They worshipped differently. They were like oil and water. . . or like *(reference one of the strange pairings from the Introduction)*.

“And that’s where we begin today. And to tell this story properly, I think we need [Name of Host] to help us out. We have a few interesting characters in the story and [Name of Host] is the most interesting character I know.

Host enters. Communicator hands Host a prop and costume box. Host looks through it for ideas. “I see where this is going . . . okay I got this!” Host is free to act/pantomime throughout the story as well as interact with the costumes and props.

Open the Bible to Acts 10:1-2 (NirV) and read

COMMUNICATOR: “A man named Cornelius lived in Caesarea. He was a Roman commander in the Italian Regiment.”

Host puts on Roman soldier helmet and red sash.



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“Cornelius and all his family were faithful and worshiped God. He gave freely to people who were in need. He prayed to God regularly.”

“So, Cornelius . . .

Communicator points to Host. Host strikes a strong pose.

“He was generous (giving hands) . . . he prayed regularly (praying hands) . . . he worshipped God (raised hands). Notice, he worshipped God, not gods. Most Romans worshipped many gods, but Cornelius was a worshipper of the One True God. But interestingly enough—he wasn’t Jewish. He was a Roman commander living in the Roman military base of Caesarea Maritima. This was not a Jewish man. He was a Gentile.

Host continues striking a pose but puts hands up, perplexed.

Open the Bible to Acts 10:3 (NIRV) and read.

“One day about three o’clock in the afternoon he had a vision. He saw clearly an angel of God. The angel came to him and said, “Cornelius!””

Host grabs a flashlight and shines it in their own face. It is hard to look directly at.

“Three in the afternoon was the typical time when Jewish people would pray, and here, while Cornelius was praying, God spoke to him through an angel.

Open the Bible to Acts 10:4 (NIRV) and read.

“Cornelius was afraid. He stared at the angel. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to poor people are like an offering to God. So he has remembered you.””

Host acts afraid and comically tries to stare at the flashlight. “This angel is SO BRIGHT!”

“Friends, this was a really cool moment. A Gentile, a Roman official no less, who had worshipped God (hands up) and given to the poor (giving hands) and prayed regularly (praying hands) was noticed by God. God saw him. And God was about to do something pretty amazing in his life.

Open the Bible to Acts 10:5-6 (NIRV) and read.

“The angel told him this: “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.””

HOST: *“One Simon ‘leather,’ one Simon Peter. Got it.”*

COMMUNICATOR: *“The angel left (flashlight turned off, to the relief of Host), and Cornelius called two of his servants and a soldier (Host mouth whistle or comically try) and told them everything that had just happened, and then sent them to Joppa. Joppa was about 40 miles down the coast, so no short trip.*



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"Peter, who was also called Simon . . . man that sounds familiar. Anyone recognize that name?"

Allow for a few responses.

"You got it. Peter, also known as Simon, was a disciple of Jesus. The same Peter who walked and talked with Jesus, who was there in the upper room, and who walked on the water. This guy had been at the center of the Jesus movement . . . and now God was telling Cornelius to bring him to his house!"

Host dresses like Peter (tunic and shawl).

"As is typical with God, things were happening to multiple people at the same time. Just like Saul and Ananias having two separate visions simultaneously, God was up to the same thing here. The other person having a separate vision? Peter."

HOST: "Do I have to do the flashlight again?"

COMMUNICATOR: "Nope! Just a bedsheet!"

HOST: "Woo hoo! (pause) Wait. A what?"

COMMUNICATOR: "(continuing without missing a beat) Peter was staying at the house of Simon the leather worker, and he went up on the roof of the house to pray. And while there, during his prayer, a vision happened.

For the following, either enlist help in holding the sheet and have the Host react, or have the Host do it on their own, which would be comical.

Open the Bible to Acts 10:11-16 (NirV) and read.

"'He saw heaven open up. There he saw something that looked like a large sheet.' (Bed sheet with stuff animals inside.) '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. Then a voice told him, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'"

Host reacts to the voice.

"'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.'

Throw the sheet offstage dramatically.

"What a strange dream! A sheet, animals, and a voice telling Peter to kill and eat them. Bonkers.

"Peter's response was interesting, though. He said: 'I have never eaten anything that is not pure and "clean."' What does that mean, exactly? Peter was talking about his people and the Jewish laws that they followed. Remember



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what we said earlier: God had asked the Jewish people to live differently—and that included what they ate, what they wore, how they worshipped, who they were influenced by. And the foods in the vision? Well, those were the foods that were off limits to them.

“You can see it in Peter’s reaction. This whole thing was confusing. Why was God telling him to do something he wasn’t supposed to do?”

“While Peter was trying to figure it out, Cornelius’ men arrived.

Open the Bible to Acts 10:19-20 (NIRV) and read.

Host acts this out.

“Peter was still thinking about the vision. The Holy Spirit spoke to him.” (flashlight again) “Simon,” he said, “three men are looking for you. Get up and go downstairs. Don’t let anything keep you from going with them. I have sent them.”

“Peter went down to meet the men, and they introduced themselves and told Peter about Cornelius and how an angel had told him to invite Peter to his house.

Open the Bible to Acts 10:23 (NIRV) and read.

“Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.”

“Keep in mind the relationship between all of these people. Three Gentile men walked into the leather worker’s house where Peter was staying—which was something you just didn’t do. Then, Peter went with them—which was something you just didn’t do. When Peter arrived at Cornelius’ house, he went in—which was something you just didn’t do. Jews and Gentiles didn’t mix. Everything about this whole event was not normal.

“Furthermore, Jews specifically didn’t go into Gentiles’ houses because they believed it would make them ‘unclean.’ Not that Gentiles houses were always messy, unclean meant ‘spiritually’ unclean.

“However, when invited, Peter went into Cornelius’ house.

Open the Bible to Acts 10:25 (NIRV) and read.

Host will do some rapid fire back and forth between Cornelius and Peter costumes as the names are mentioned.

“When Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him. As a sign of respect, he fell at Peter’s feet.”

“Cornelius met Peter. Peter met Cornelius. Peter said hi. Cornelius said hi. Peter. Cornelius. Peter. Cornelius.”

HOST: “Bro!”

COMMUNICATOR: “Ha. Sorry. Got carried away.”



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"This was a big deal. A Jewish person was in a Gentile's house. And what Peter found there was pretty amazing. There was a large group of people in Cornelius' home—I'm imagining he told his friends and family about the vision and they had all come to see what would happen when Peter arrived. So Peter entered the home and addressed the group. And what he said was fascinating!"

Host switches to Peter, then points at the Communicator as if to say, "DON'T SWITCH ME."

COMMUNICATOR: "I won't, I won't, I promise!"

Open the Bible to Acts 10:28 (NIRV) and read.

"[Peter] said to them, 'You know that it is against our law for a Jew to enter a Gentile home.'" (Host: "Maybe not the best way to make friends . . ."). "A Jew shouldn't have any close contact with a Gentile.'" (Host as Peter gets uncomfortably close to Communicator.) "But God has shown me that I should not say anyone is not pure and 'clean.'"

"Peter started by saying, 'I shouldn't even be here! Jewish law does not permit me to enter this house.' But he went on to say that God had shown him that he shouldn't say anyone is or isn't pure or clean. Where did Peter get that idea?"

Allow for responses.

"Yes! The vision! The super-confusing thing about the sheet and the animals!"

"Now, there was an interesting difference between what happened in the vision and what was happening here with Peter and Cornelius. The vision was about animals, and God told Peter not to say *anything* was not pure or clean.

"But here, Peter said anyone. It turned out that the vision was not so much about animals . . . but about people. Peter asked the packed house why they had sent for him, and Cornelius, this faithful and godly Gentile, told them all about the vision (flashlight) and about all of the events that led to this moment. As Peter listened to Cornelius speak, Peter had an astounding realization.

Open the Bible to Acts 10:34-35 (NIRV) and read.

"Then Peter began to speak. 'I now realize'" (use flashlight like a lightbulb 'aha!') "'how true it is that God treats everyone the same," he said. "He accepts people from every nation. He accepts anyone who has respect for him and does what is right."

"In this moment, Peter came to a powerful and incredibly important realization. Jesus is not just the Savior of Israel. He is the Savior of the whole world. God is a God of all nations . . . not just one. Peter might not have gotten it before—but he surely got it now.

Open the Bible to Acts 10:36 (NIRV) and read.

"'You know the message God sent to the people of Israel. It is the good news of peace through Jesus Christ. He is Lord of all.'"

"And that day, right there in Cornelius' house many people, including many Gentiles, put their faith in Jesus as their Savior. The Savior of all people.



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SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE

SLIDE: WEEK 3 TIMELINE IMAGE

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"[Name of Host] take a bow, will you? Friends, let's show our appreciation!"

Lead the group in applause as the Host exits, then continue.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "When I started this story, I told you about when God called Abraham to be a great nation. The main reason God formed that nation, the nation of Israel, was to reach the world. Not only would God bless Abraham, but God would also use Abraham to bless the all the nations in the world. God's dream has always been to have a relationship with all nations . . . all people. These events at Cornelius' house may be some of the clearest examples we have of this, for sure. And here's the thing . . . it was just getting started.

"After that moment at Cornelius' house with Peter, everything wasn't just automatically fixed between Jews and Gentiles. The truth was some of the Jewish people had a really hard time accepting the Gentiles—and vice versa. But despite their many differences, the one common bond they all now had was Jesus. And really, He's enough.

"Just like Peter and Cornelius, God can change the way we see other people. He can make once strangers or even enemies now friends or even like family.

"Maybe you find yourself in a situation right now where you already have your mind made up about somebody. You're really tempted to think the worst about them. But think about the last couple weeks and what we've learned here . . . Ananias and Saul . . . Peter and Cornelius. God can truly change the way you see other people!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"When have you changed your mind about someone? Do you have a time that maybe you got it wrong? Or you simply had to change your thinking about someone? Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us see the people in our lives the way that God sees them! Let's pray!"

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP