



PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL



Acts 10

Cornelius was an officer in the Roman army who lived in Caesarea. He and everyone in his house worshiped God. Cornelius helped other people, and he always prayed to God. One afternoon, Cornelius saw an angel of God in a vision which frightened him.

The angel said to him, "God has heard your prayers, and He has seen how you help others." Then the angel told Cornelius to send for a man named Peter, who was in the city of Joppa. So Cornelius sent two of his servants and one soldier to Joppa.

The next day, as the servants and the soldier were nearing the city, Peter went up on the roof of the house to pray. Peter saw a vision of something like a large sheet coming down from heaven. In the sheet were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and birds. A voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat!"

"No, Lord!" Peter said. "I have never eaten anything that is unclean or used for sacrifices."

Again, a voice said to him, "God has made these clean. Do not call them unclean." This happened three times, and then the whole thing was taken up into heaven. Peter tried to understand what the vision meant.

Then Cornelius' men arrived at the gate. They explained that Cornelius had seen a vision, and an angel instructed him to send for Peter. So the next day, Peter went with the men to Caesarea.

When Peter got to Cornelius' house, he explained to Cornelius that God does not consider some people to be better than others. God had sent good news to the Israelites: Jesus is Lord of all. After Jesus was killed, God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and Jesus appeared to many people. Jesus told His followers to tell others about Him. Peter said, "Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven."

As Peter said this, the Holy Spirit came down on those who heard the message—not just the Jews, but the Gentiles, or non-Jews, too. The Jewish believers were amazed. Cornelius, his friends, and his relatives were baptized in the name of Jesus, and Peter stayed with them for a few days.



Big Picture Question:

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.



Christ Connection:

God showed Peter that just as there is no "clean" and "unclean" food in Christ, there are no "clean" and "unclean" people. God calls believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter who they are or where they come from. Jesus is the Lord of all.