



ACTS 10

CORNELIUS AND PETER

Scripture: Acts 10

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Main Takeaway: God's gift of grace is offered to gentiles.

Supplies: Pillow case or sheet balled up. Second option: sheet, balls or stuffed animals.

Ask:

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (The conversion of Saul)

We'll get back to more about Saul in coming weeks, but today, we're going to go back to Peter. What can anyone tell me about Peter? (He was an apostle of Jesus, he was a fisherman, he was from Galilee, he walked on water, etc)

Today, we're going to learn about a very important moment that happened in Peter's life and the life of the church.

Read: Acts 10:1-23

Explain:

If you don't know about Jewish law, this story doesn't make a lot of sense. So first, let's talk a little about the law. When the Israelites came out of Egypt, God made a covenant with them and gave them laws to obey. These laws covered what to do with mold in your house, how to give justice for a crime, to food that they could and couldn't eat. The foods that the Jewish people couldn't eat was called unclean. This included shellfish, pork, certain birds, and crawling reptiles. But here, God tells Peter to get up and kill and eat. Let's take a break from our story to play a game to remind us of Peter's vision.

Play a Game:

Have everyone divide into pairs. Give each pair the name of an unclean animal (Example: pig, crab, buzzards, lions, catfish, lobsters, dogs).

Once everyone has their animal (make sure they remember it!), have them create a large circle around the room. Place a sheet or pillow case in the middle. When you call the name a one or more animals, those people will run to the middle and try to be the first to grab the sheet. Play several rounds.

Read: Acts 10:24-48

Explain:

The purpose of the vision was to show that not only were the animals now considered clean, but that God doesn't show favoritism and welcomes people from every nation into his family when they believe in the Lord Jesus. Guys, this is HUGE! Up until this point, the Jewish people believed only they would be saved. But now, God reveals his glorious, beautiful plan that salvation is available to all people, not just Jews. This is why you and I are welcome into the family of God, even though we aren't Jewish. We can follow Jesus, receive his Holy Spirit, and live forever in heaven by believing in the truth of the message Peter preached: that Jesus died on the cross and rose again so we could have forgiveness of sins.

Do an Activity:

Another activity, depending on the age of the kids is to bring stuffed animals in and a sheet. Have the kids grab all ends of the sheet and shake it. As they are shaking the sheet, toss stuffed animals onto it, calling out its name (or a ball that represents the animal). Have the kids shout "Clean!" after each toss.

Memorize Acts 10:43

Close in Prayer