

**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY**  
**CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K&K)**

**Lesson #92**

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT: Peter Baptized Cornelius – the Gentile Believed in Jesus, God's Son**

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 10:1-48**

**AIM: To show the children that God sent His Son for the entire world to believe in Him.**

**MEMORY VERSES: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."**

**CONTENT:** Do you remember who Peter was? Right, he was one of the Lord's followers. After the Lord's death and resurrection, Peter was very strong to tell everybody because the Lord was with him. Peter was telling God's people (the Jews) all that the Lord had done. God is so wonderful. God wanted EVERYONE to know about the Lord Jesus. Not only were God's people to hear the truth about Jesus, God's Son, but God wanted all people to hear and believe in God's Son.

There was a man named Cornelius. He was not one of God's people – He was a Roman soldier – a captain in the Roman army. He was a good and kind man. He gave many gifts to the poor and prayed much to God. Unlike the other Roman soldiers who worshiped idols, Cornelius worshiped the One True and Living God. Whereas the other Roman soldiers were cruel to God's people (the Jews), Cornelius was kind to them.

Cornelius prayed to God the Father, but he did not know that Jesus is God's Son. One afternoon while he was praying, an angel appeared to him and said, "Cornelius." He was afraid. He looked straight at the angel and said, "What is it Lord?" "God has heard your prayers and He remembers all the gifts you have given to the poor," said the angel. The angel continued, "Now send some men to the city of Joppa. Tell them to bring back a man called Peter who is staying at the house of Simon the tanner." Immediately, Cornelius sent two servants and a soldier, who also loved the Lord, to go and get Peter.

At about the same time, God also spoke to Peter in a vision. While he was praying on a housetop and became very hungry, God showed Peter a vision – a special message from God. Peter saw a big sheet full of all kind of animals and heard God's voice saying, "Rise, Peter; Kill and eat." Peter told the Lord that he would never eat such things. (You see God's people [the Jews] were not permitted to eat such things, but all other people could eat such things.) The Lord continued to tell Peter to eat these things. Three times the sheet was lowered down so Peter could see four-footed animals and crawling creatures of earth and the birds of the air. He heard the voice three times. Then the sheet was taken back to heaven. At first, Peter did not understand what the vision meant or why God was telling him to eat those things that only the Gentiles (all others than God's people) ate.

While Peter was wondering what this vision meant, he heard the three men that Cornelius had sent knocking at the door. They asked, "Is this Simon's house? Is Peter staying here?" The Spirit of God told Peter to go down and not be afraid because "I have sent them to you." When Peter went down to see the men, the men said that Cornelius, a good and just man, had sent them because he wanted to hear Peter's words about the Lord. (Until this time only the Jews were told about Jesus, God's Son. NOW, GOD WANTED ALL THE PEOPLE, NOT JUST THE JEWS, TO HEAR ABOUT THE WONDERFUL SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. GOD LOVED THE

WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE SENT HIS ONLY SON THAT ALL MAY BELIEVE IN HIM.)

The men stayed in Simon's house that night. The next day they started to walk to Cornelius' house. He lived in a city far away, so it took them all day to get there.

When they arrived at Cornelius' house, he was waiting for them. Cornelius called his family and friends. Now **all** could hear about Jesus. Peter told Cornelius that God had heard his prayers and remembered his good works to the poor. Peter told them that until this time God had not wanted him to come to them. In those days, it was against the law for a Jew (Peter) to be with a Gentile (Cornelius). Peter now understood the vision of the sheet with the animals. Peter understood that **NOW EVERYONE CAN BELIEVE IN JESUS AND ALL CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**

Peter told how Jesus had done many miracles in the power of the Holy Spirit. He told them that Jesus had died on the cross, that He rose from the dead and that many people had seen Jesus alive again. Jesus had told His disciples to tell everyone about Him (including the Gentiles who were not God's people.) Then those people who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven.

This was the best news Cornelius and his friends had ever heard. (It is also the best news WE have ever heard.) They listened to Peter for hours. They believed in Jesus as soon as they heard all that He had done for them. Then Peter baptized them in the Name of Jesus. Then all the believers praised God together.