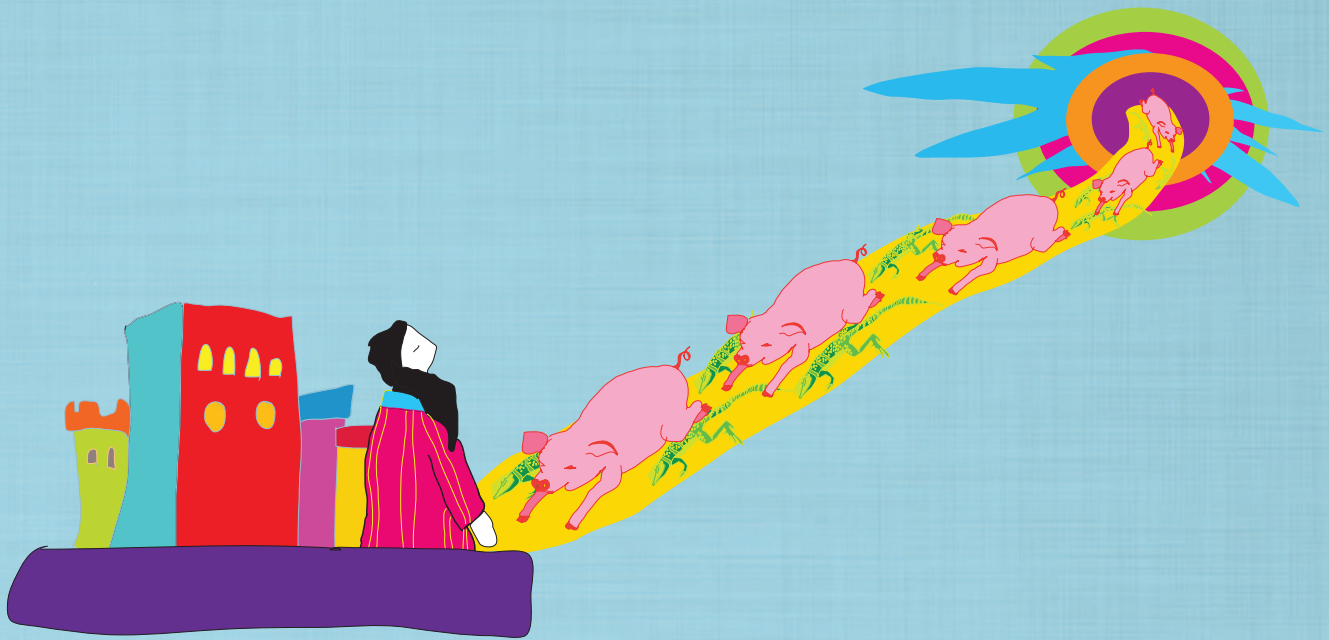


LESSON 51

The Gentiles Are Converted

ACTS 10



BIBLE TRUTH

THE GOSPEL IS OFFERED TO ALL NATIONS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Acts 10 from the Scriptures or read story 129, “The Gentiles Are Converted,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

Remember the Promise

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a star (can be cut out of cardboard)
- ✓ a jar of sand
- ✓ a knife

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Clean Versus Unclean

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ three-by-five cards

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 51—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

LESSON SNAPSHOT

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN
9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

No Partiality

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a pair of dice
- ✓ a large bag of lollipops
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

What God calls clean is truly clean—There is no way Peter would have come to Cornelius, a Gentile centurion, unless God helped him realize that the gospel message was meant for the Gentiles as well as the Jews. To help him understand, God gave him a vision of the unclean animals a Jew was not to eat. It took Peter three times to receive the message that what God calls clean is truly clean, and even then Peter was perplexed as to what the vision meant (Acts 10:16–17).

When the messengers came from Cornelius, the Spirit of God urged Peter to go with them to his house. Soon Peter would discover the meaning of the vision.

Peter obeys God and preaches the good news to the Gentiles—When Cornelius tried to worship Peter as if he were divine, Peter refused his worship and began to share the gospel message. Peter understood then the meaning of the vision. The unclean animals on the sheet meant that God intended the gospel to go to the Gentiles. Just as the animals were to be considered clean, likewise the Gentiles were no longer to be considered unclean. Peter declared his newfound realization when he said, “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:34–35).

The Holy Spirit confirms God’s acceptance of the Gentiles—While Peter preached the gospel, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the Word. They spoke in tongues just as the disciples had on the day of Pentecost. Peter described it this way: “The Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning....God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 11:15, 17). This outpouring of the Holy Spirit in response to Cornelius’ household’s repentance was the evidence that God had indeed saved them and would serve as proof to the leaders of the church in Jerusalem that God indeed had blessed the Gentiles with his salvation (Acts 11:17–18).

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

The gospel is clearly spoken by Peter in our passage:

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Acts 10:38–43

While we should not assume the words recorded in Acts 10 are likely a summary of Peter's message to the household of Cornelius, it is nevertheless a concise summary of the gospel message. Jesus did good (he lived a sinless life). Jesus died an unjust death upon the cross. God raised him from the dead and all those who believe in him are forgiven.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Acts 10 from the Scriptures or read story 129, "The Gentiles Are Converted," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **15 MIN**

Remember the Promise

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a star (can be cut out of cardboard)
- ✓ a jar of sand
- ✓ a small, dull knife

Read through the story of Peter and his vision, and the salvation of Cornelius. Then pull out the jar of sand, sprinkle it on the table, and ask the class how the sand relates to the story. The answer can be found in Genesis 22:11–18 in the story of Abraham sacrificing Isaac. The sand represents the descendants of Abraham from all the nations of the world. Cornelius is one of those grains of sand.

If the children cannot guess by the sand, show them the star. If they cannot guess from the star, show them the knife. If they do guess what the sand and star represent, show them the knife and ask them if they can remember the passage from the Old Testament where God announced his promise. The knife is their clue.

Finish by reading Genesis 22:11–18. See if they can remember what the ram in the thicket represents. Jesus, of course, is the answer and the means by which God saves people from among all nations and peoples.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

Clean Versus Unclean

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ three-by-five cards

To prepare, list the following creatures individually on the cards. On the backs of the cards list the creature’s category, clean or unclean.

Clean: ox, sheep, goat, deer, gazelle, roe deer, wild goat, ibex, antelope, mountain sheep, sardines, peacock, pigeon, locust, katydid, cricket, grasshopper.

Unclean: camel, rabbit, coney (also called the badger), pig, shark, catfish, eagle, raven, bat, bees, weasel, rat, and lizard.

Use this as an introduction to Peter's dream. The animals on the lists are not exhaustive but representative of the animals declared clean or unclean by the law of Moses. One by one show the name of the animal and then have the class guess if it is clean or unclean.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 51—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Who are the people in the picture?**
(The people in the picture are the Gentiles—the non-Jews—to whom Peter preached the gospel.)
- **What happened to the Gentiles to whom Peter preached the gospel?**
(God saved them, and the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on them so that they spoke in tongues.)
- **What did Peter tell them to do after they believed?**
(He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN**

No Partiality

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a pair of dice
- ✓ a large bag of lollipops
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Before class, write the following list on the whiteboard:

IF I ROLL A...	YOU DO NOT GET CANDY IF YOU...
2	have brown hair
3	have blonde hair
4	have black hair
5	have green eyes
6	have hazel eyes
7	have blue eyes
8	have brown eyes
9	are a boy
10	are a girl
11	have a birthday from January through June
12	have a birthday from July through December

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate what it means to show partiality. Then make the connection that God does not show partiality with regard to the gospel and his plan of salvation.

Explain to the class that you are going to roll the dice and give a lollipop to everyone except those who have the feature on the numbered list. For example, if you roll the number 2, everyone gets a lollipop except for those with brown hair.

Roll the dice and exclude all those represented by the number rolled. Give everyone else a lollipop. Ask the class if what you are doing is impartial or partial. (Explain the meaning of those words.)

Roll the dice a few more times. If anyone is left at the last round without a lollipop, give them one.

Read the story of Peter’s vision and how God was trying to teach Peter that the gospel is intended for everyone—for people of every nation, both Jew and Gentile.

LESSON 51 - THE GENTILES ARE CONVERTED

