

VOLUME 11, UNIT 32, SESSION 2 (CSB)

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THE LORD PREPARES PEOPLE FOR THE GOSPEL (ACTS 10:1-6).

¹ There was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment. ² He was a devout man and feared God along with his whole household. He did many charitable deeds for the Jewish people and always prayed to God. ³ About three in the afternoon he distinctly saw in a vision an angel of God who came in and said to him, “Cornelius.” ⁴ Staring at him in awe, he said, “What is it, Lord?” The angel told him, “Your prayers and your acts of charity have ascended as a memorial offering before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa and call for Simon, who is also named Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.”

THE LORD CALLS PEOPLE TO ACT IN FAITH AND SHARE THE GOSPEL (ACTS 10:9-16,19-23).

⁹ The next day, as they were traveling and nearing the city, Peter went up to pray on the roof about noon. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted to eat, but while they were preparing something, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened and an object that resembled a large sheet coming down, being lowered by its four corners to the earth. ¹² In it were all the four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth, and the birds of the sky. ¹³ A voice said to him, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” ¹⁴ “No, Lord!” Peter said. “For I have never eaten anything impure and ritually unclean.” ¹⁵ Again, a second time, the voice said to him, “What God has made clean, do not call impure.” ¹⁶ This happened three times, and suddenly the object was taken up into heaven. . . . ¹⁹ While Peter was thinking about the vision, the Spirit told him, “Three men are here looking for you. ²⁰ Get up, go downstairs, and go with them with no doubts at all, because I have sent them.” ²¹ Then Peter went down to the men and said, “Here I am, the one you’re looking for. What is the reason you’re here?” ²² They said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who has a good reputation with the whole Jewish nation, was divinely directed by a holy angel to call you to his house and to hear a message from you.” ²³ Peter then invited them in and gave them lodging. The next day he got up and set out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went with him.

THE LORD TRANSFORMS PEOPLE BY THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL (ACTS 10:25-28).

²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell at his feet, and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up and said, “Stand up. I myself am also a man.” ²⁷ While talking with him, he went in and found a large gathering of people. ²⁸ Peter said to them, “You know it’s forbidden for a Jewish man to associate with or visit a foreigner, but God has shown me that I must not call any person impure or unclean.”

