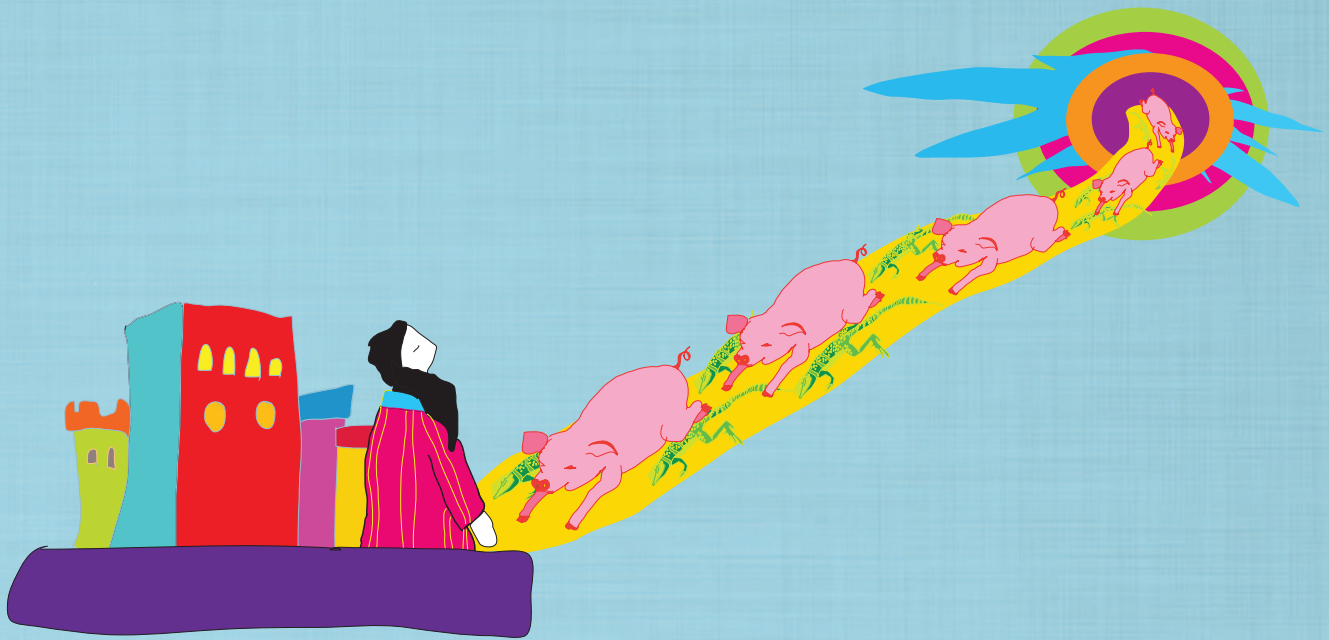


LESSON 51

The Gentiles Are Converted

ACTS 10:34-48



BIBLE TRUTH

THE GOSPEL IS OFFERED TO ALL NATIONS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 129)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 51—one for each child; markers or crayons

From Every Nation

SUPPLIES: a globe or world map; photos from other nations—particularly nations where your church has sent missionaries or mission teams

We Are Witnesses

SUPPLIES: candy for each child; several objects for this demonstration (e.g., baseball, bat, and glove; set of keys; hat)

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn how the preaching of the gospel resulted in the conversion of people from every nation.

Tell your helper that you have to leave the room for a minute and while you are out, to prepare the class for the Bible story. As soon as you leave, the helper should divide the class into two groups: the Jews and the Gentiles.

Return to the room as soon as the class is divided. As you walk in your helper should announce that that the "Jews" (not the "Gentiles") should gather around to listen to the Bible story. At this point correct your helper and say that you want everyone—the Gentiles as well as the Jews—to hear God's Word.

The helper should say that he thought you said to separate the class into two groups. Explain that you did want them to be separated, but in the story today we are going to learn that God's Word and his plan to save us from our sins is for all people, Jew and Gentile. God's Word is for people from every background.

Take time to thank God that the Bible is for all people, no matter where they come from or what their family background. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 129, "The Gentiles Are Converted," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION **5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What did Peter tell the Gentiles?**
(Peter told the Gentiles the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.)

- **How could the people trust that what Peter was saying was true?**
(Peter shared that Jesus had been seen alive after his death. It was not just a made-up story. Peter said that he himself had seen Jesus.)

- **Why was it amazing to Peter that Gentiles would be welcomed by God?**
(In the past, God had only blessed the people of Israel with his Spirit and his care. It surprised Peter that God was including Gentiles, people who were not a part of Israel.)

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.

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

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

- **Who is the Holy Spirit?**
(The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity.)
- **Who can receive the Holy Spirit?**
(The Holy Spirit is given to everyone who believes that Jesus died for their sins.)
- **Why does God give the Holy Spirit?**
(The Holy Spirit is a comforter given to encourage us, to give us power over sin, to convict us when we stray, and to give us an inner witness that we are the children of God.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5-10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS **20-30 MIN**

Coloring Activity

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 and 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.)

From Every Nation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a globe or a world map
- ✓ photos from other nations—particularly nations where your church has sent missionaries or mission teams

Direct the children's attention to the globe. Explain that the reason Peter was so astonished was that in the past God had usually only shown favor to Israel. Peter realized that God was no longer going to have a favorite nation and that all the nations of the earth could believe in Jesus Christ.

Research the countries your church or group of churches is reaching out to and see if the children know where they are on the globe in relation to our country. Point them out. (If there are none, consider if there are students who are from different countries and select those.) Show the photos to the children and point out that God wants the gospel to go out to all people.

We Are Witnesses

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ candy for each child
- ✓ several objects for this demonstration (e.g., baseball, bat, and glove; set of keys, hat)

Place the miscellaneous objects on a table in front of the class. Turn everyone around facing away from you, except for one child. Tell that child to pay close attention to what you do. After the explanation, do something with the items (i.e., pick something up and swing it like a baseball bat or place the object on your head or in your pocket).

Have all the children turn around and then ask them to explain what you did. They might try to guess, but they will not be able to tell you. Explain to them that they couldn't know what you did because they didn't see or witness it. Tell them that if they can tell you what you did you will give them each a piece of candy as a treat. They might quickly ask the one person who could tell them. If not, help them to see they have a witness and that they may ask the witness what happened.

With the help of the witness they should be able to tell you what you did. Then reward them with candy.

Read Romans 10:13–15 to the class. Connect the illustration to the witnesses of Christ’s resurrection and help them see the importance of witnesses in spreading the gospel of Christ.

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

LESSON 51 - THE GENTILES ARE CONVERTED

