

LESSON 5

PETER AND CORNELIUS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Is for Everyone Who Believes

SCRIPTURE: Acts 10

GOD'S BIG STORY: An angel instructs a Roman military official named Cornelius to meet Jesus' disciple, Peter. Meanwhile, God shows Peter through a vision that God's Holy Spirit is for everyone—Jews and non-Jews—preparing Peter to meet Cornelius.

WORD OF WONDER: The Holy Spirit gives us power. —from Acts 1:8

Activity: Favorite Things

Activity: Food Pretend Play

Worship

God's Big Story

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Peter's Vision

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Favorite Things

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome to church! In God’s big story today, we’ll learn that God doesn’t have favorites, and God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who believes in Jesus and trusts Him. We’re all different, and we have different things we like and don’t like. But we’re all loved by God. Let’s talk about our favorite things.

For older toddlers, call out a category and have them shout out their favorite thing in that category:

- Color
- Animal
- Food
- Show/Movie
- Toy
- Restaurant
- Book

For younger toddlers, call out a variety of things from each category and tell them to clap if they like it.

- Color: pink, blue, yellow
- Animal: dog, cat, fish
- Food: candy, bread, carrots
- Show/Movie (choose a few movies the kids in your ministry enjoy)
- Toy: stuffed animal, dolls, tricycle (or choose various toys the kids in your ministry enjoy)
- Restaurant (choose a variety of restaurants in your area)
- Book (hold up three different books from your room)

We all have different things we like and don’t like. God made us all different! He cares about each one of us. God doesn’t have favorites!

Activity: Food Pretend Play

SUPPLIES: variety of toy food (or pictures of food)

We’re going to talk about a man from the Bible named Peter. God gave him a vision, like a dream, and Peter saw foods that he did not eat. Other people did eat those foods, though, and that’s OK. We’ll learn what Peter learned—that God loves all people.

Let’s take a look at some foods we eat.

Hold up a variety of toy foods and ask whether the kids can name the food. Ask questions about the color, how it tastes, and whether the kids have eaten it. After going through several different foods, allow the kids to pretend play with the toy foods. Encourage them to pretend to cook, mix, and share some with a friend.

God used the vision to teach Peter that God loves all people. We’ll learn more about it in our story today. We’ll learn that God loves all people and sends the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus.

Our Wonder Truth today is: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.

IS FOR EVERYONE—Use an open hand to point to everyone in the room.

WHO BELIEVES—Make prayer hands.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Power of the Spirit Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we'll learn about how the Holy Spirit is for all who trust in Jesus. Let's sing and thank God for the Holy Spirit!

Play songs from the [Power of the Spirit Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: bedsheet or blanket, stuffed animals

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Peter and Cornelius God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about Peter and Cornelius. Encourage the kids to say, "Peter" and then "Cornelius." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

Invite the kids to hold onto the sides of the bedsheet or blanket and put the stuffed animals on the bedsheet.

In the book of Acts in the Bible, we learn about a man named Peter who followed God. Peter was Jewish. Jesus' first followers were Jews. They were related to God's special people and followed the laws and teachings God gave His people. Peter was praying and had a vision from God. A vision is like a dream. In the vision, Peter saw a big white sheet being lowered from heaven. The sheet was filled with all kinds of animals. Encourage the kids to raise and lower the sheet with stuffed animals as you tell this part of the story. When you finish, collect the sheet. If the kids want to sit with the stuffed animals (and don't get distracted!), they can sit with the stuffed animals while you finish the story.

Cornelius followed God. He was not Jewish, but he loved and wanted to follow God. One day, an angel from God told Cornelius to invite Peter to his home.

Then Peter went downstairs and met the three men Cornelius had sent. They all went to Cornelius' house, and Peter understood the vision God had given him!

God wasn't trying to teach Peter about animals. God was teaching Peter that He wants everyone to know Him and follow Him, even people who aren't Jews. People don't have to like the same animals or eat the same foods to know and follow God. They just have to believe in Jesus and follow and trust Him.

Peter shared about Jesus with Cornelius and all the people living in his house. They all believed, and the Holy Spirit filled them all. We're all different too, and there are lots of people in the world—some who are like us and some who are different. God loves every one of us. He wants to be close with us. The Holy Spirit is for everyone who believes!

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Power of the Spirit Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER
The Holy Spirit gives us power.

—from Acts 1:8

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using. **Our Word of Wonder for the Power of the Spirit series is from Acts 1:8. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.
- **GIVES US**—Point to yourself.
- **POWER.**—Flex your arm muscles.
- **FROM ACTS 1:8**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Pray with the kids and thank God for giving the Holy Spirit.

God, we thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to everyone who believes. You give us Your Spirit so we can tell others about Your goodness and love. You will never leave us. You are always with us. Thank You, God! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May your hearts be tender toward the God who loves you. May you sense His love for you each and every day. The Holy Spirit is for everyone who believes. May you believe and receive His precious Holy Spirit!

Activity: Peter's Vision

SUPPLIES: bedsheet or blanket, stuffed animals

When God gave Peter a vision, Peter saw a sheet coming from the sky. It was filled with different animals. Peter learned that God loves all people and gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who believes. It doesn't matter what foods the people eat or where they're from. God wants to be close with all people. Let's play with a bedsheet and some animals to help us remember God's big story today.

Set out a bedsheet or blanket and a variety of stuffed animals. Encourage the kids to hold onto the sheet with the stuffed animals on it and raise it up and lower it down. Then see if they can bounce the animals

into the air and catch them again on the bedsheet. Ask questions and give directions. Here are some examples:

- **Where is the frog?**
- **Can you find the pig? Put it on the blanket.**
- **The bird is under the blanket! Can you put it on top?**
- **Who can find the animal that says “moo”?**

We can remember that God loves us all and gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus.