

Children's Church at Home 9 May 2021

Acts 10 Peter and Cornelius

Craft: salt dough: 1 cup plain flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water, mix and knead. Cook finished faces on non-stick paper at 100°C for 3 hours, (more if still soft) Paint to decorate.

First: which of these foods have you tried? Pizza? Curry? Squid rings (calamari)? Sushi? Salami? Kimchi? What did you think of them?

The Story: [Acts 10 ERV - Peter and Cornelius - In the city of - Bible Gateway](#)

There was a man called Cornelius who lived in Caesarea. He was captain of the Italian Guard stationed there. He was a good man, he prayed, and looked after anyone who needed help. One afternoon, an angel popped in. 'Hello!' said Cornelius, 'what do you want, Sir?' and the angel replied, 'you pray, and you do things for other people, and God sees that. Now he wants you to ask Peter to come and tell you more. He's staying with Simon the Tanner, down by the sea.' 'Ok then' said Cornelius and asked one of the soldiers and two people who worked for him to go and find Peter and ask him to come.

They had quite a long way to go, and so it was the next day before they got to Joppa. As they were approaching, Peter was up on the roof of the house praying. It was nearly lunchtime and as Peter was beginning to think about having something to eat, he saw a vision. A huge blanket was coming down from heaven filled with all sorts of creatures, and a voice said, 'here you go Peter, you can kill any of these and eat the meat.' 'What!' cried Peter, 'I can't do that! I've always been very careful to follow all the rules about what a Jew can and can't eat! And there are animals here which are definitely not allowed!' 'If God says it's ok, it's ok.' Replied the voice. Three times this happened, and then the blanket floated back up to heaven.

As Peter was trying to work out what all this was about, Cornelius' men arrived. 'Wake up, Peter' said the Spirit of God, 'there are people here to see you. I sent them.' so Peter went down and the visitors told him all about Cornelius' angel and the invitation to go and see him.

The next day, they set off together, Cornelius' people, Peter and some friends of his as well. Cornelius was very excited. He'd invited all his friends and relations to come too. He fell down on the ground to worship Peter, but Peter hauled him up! 'None of that! I'm a man, just a man, no different from you.' Peter went into Cornelius' house.

'I really shouldn't be here;' he told the people there. 'Jews just don't do this! We're not allowed to go and visit people of another race. But God has shown me that no race is better than any other. So the minute I was sent for, I came, no questions asked. Tell me all about it.'

Well, once Peter had heard about Cornelius' angel, he started telling the people there all about Jesus and Easter and everything. And as soon as he'd finished, the Holy Spirit inspired everyone there and they started praising God and thanking him for Jesus and speaking in other languages.

Peter's Jewish friends were amazed. These people were not Jews, but God had chosen them too. 'It's fine,' said Peter, 'Let's get baptising.' And they did.

Video: [Kids Video-Peter and Cornelius-37 on Vimeo](#)

Quiz: what was the name of the Captain of the Italian Guard? Where did he live? Did he believe in God? Who came to see him? What did he have to do? What did Peter see in his vision? What was he told to do? What happened when Peter arrived at Cornelius' house? What did Peter and his friends do at the end?

Think: First of all, did you know that Jewish people are not allowed to eat certain foods? Do you know of any? Would Peter have eaten all the foods at the top of the first page? Well, in this story, God tells Peter that these rules don't matter to Christians. But the message he gives Peter isn't just about food, is it? Jesus has told us about rules before, he said that the most important rules are ... do you know?

'Love the L __ d your G __ with all your h __ _t and with all your s __ _l and with all your m __ _d.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'L __ _e your n __ _ _ _ b __ _ r as yourself. (Matthew 22:36-40)

And here God was making it very clear to Peter and his friends that they should tell everyone about Jesus, and that everyone is part of God's family. We are all different, aren't we? Peter needed to get to know Cornelius before he could completely understand what God meant. And Cornelius needed to get to know Peter to understand what God wanted him to know too.

We need to get to know all sorts of other people too. We need to see them through God's eyes (just like God had been watching Cornelius and saw what a good man he was). We must remember that God loves everyone. All sorts of people.

Craft: make salt dough faces: all different colours and sizes, different hair, different expressions.

Activity: if you have a stamping set, try making thumb prints, or try to draw the patterns on your thumb. Then compare with other people in your family. Are they the same?

Prayer: Oh God, Thank you for all our differences in my family, at my school, in my town and in my country. Thank you for this whole world full of different people. Thank you because we are all different and all important to you. Show us how we can help other people and how other people can help us. Show us how to appreciate our differences and behave fairly with everyone.
Amen.

The Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.