



# The Gospel Goes to the Gentiles

# 12



## Key Passages

- Acts 10:3–5, 10:28, 10:34–35

## Lesson Focus

- The good news about Jesus is for everyone.

## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will color the Saul Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 11 and/or play with play dough.



### Circle Time

**Prayer**—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

**God's Word**—Peter told Cornelius and his family the good news of Jesus. God wants everyone to hear the good news. The gospel is for everyone!

**Song Time**—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



### Activity 1: Gospel to Gentiles

Students will answer questions from the lesson before they can move forward in this “Mother, May I?” style game.



### Activity 2: Peter Visits Cornelius

Students will color one or more of five coloring sheets. Then they will post them on the board in the proper order while you review the lesson.



### Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or by themselves.



### Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



### COME ON IN

- Print one Saul Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Saul Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



### CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible
- Lesson Flip Chart



### GOSPEL TO GENTILES

- Print one Gospel to Gentiles Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- Gospel to Gentiles Questions
- Masking tape



### PETER VISITS CORNELIUS

- Print and cut out enough of the five Peter Visits Cornelius Coloring Sheets from the Resource DVD-ROM so each student will have at least one.
- Be sure to pass out all five pictures.

- Peter Visits Cornelius Coloring Sheet for each student
- Depending on the size of your class some students may have more than one sheet, or some students may have the same sheet—all five sheets must be passed out
- Crayons
- Poster putty



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one set of the 12 Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use. You will use these cards for Lessons 8–12.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- 12 Memory Verse Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty



### APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

The zealous Jew Saul was powerfully met on the road to Damascus by the Lord Himself. Saul was on his way to persecute those Jews who were following the truth of the risen Jesus Christ (Acts 9:1–4). The Bible tells us that Paul was baptized, and soon after, he preached Christ in the synagogues to the other Jews.

Almost all of the believers in the early church were Jews. Jesus was born into a Jewish family. His apostles were Jewish, and they taught, like Paul, in the synagogues to the Jewish nation.

But before Jesus left this earth, He commanded His followers to go and make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:19). They would receive power from the Holy Spirit as they went out to witness to all of Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8). This commission included the Gentiles. At this time in history, anyone not of Jewish ancestry was considered a Gentile. And the Gentiles were despised by the Jews because of their religious and cultural differences. Because of the animosity between them the only thing that could motivate the Jews to go to the Gentile nations with the good news of Christ would be the grace of God through faith.

We see this grace clearly as it plays out between the Apostle Peter and Cornelius, who was a centurion in the Italian army. Their meeting was supernaturally orchestrated by God Himself as Cornelius encountered an angel of God. The angel instructed him to send messengers to Joppa to look for Peter (Acts 10:1–5). The next day, Peter experienced a vision from God. In the vision Peter saw heaven open up. And a great sheet holding all kinds of four-footed animals, creeping things, and birds descended down to earth (Acts 10:11–12). Apparently, at least some of the animals Peter saw in his vision were considered “unclean” animals. This refers to animals that the Jews were not permitted to eat because of Old Testament Laws.

But Peter heard a voice telling him to eat the animals he saw. Peter responded to the Lord saying he could not eat. And then God spoke again, “What God has cleansed you must not call common” (Acts 10:13–15). After three “discussions” between Peter and the Lord, the object was taken up into heaven (Acts 10:16). Peter pondered the vision and what it might mean.

About this time, the men sent by Cornelius, the centurion, arrived in Joppa at the house where Peter was staying. They told Peter that he was to come to Caesarea to meet the Gentile Cornelius (Acts 10:22). Peter agreed to go. This was highly unusual as Jews would not associ-

ate with Gentiles, much less visit their homes. But Peter had learned something from his vision of the unclean food. He explains it in Acts 10:28, “He said to them, ‘You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.’”

God had taught Peter an important lesson. The Lord said that what He cleansed would not be unclean, or common (Acts 10:15). And Peter acknowledged this fact when he told Cornelius that God shows no partiality between people. But whoever fears God and works righteousness is accepted by Him (Acts 10:34–35). Peter continued speaking with Cornelius about Jesus Christ—His life, His death, and His Resurrection (Acts 10:38–40).

And as Peter spoke, the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and the other Gentiles who were with him, and they believed in Jesus. Then Peter commanded that they be baptized in the name of the Lord. The Jews who had come with Peter were astounded that these Gentiles could come to know the truth about Jesus (Acts 10:45, 10:48).

In this amazing providential meeting, God made it clear that He accepts both Jew and Gentile into His church. And believers are, in fact, to preach to ALL nations!

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

In Acts 10, the Bible records that Peter had a vision while on a rooftop in Joppa. Peter saw something like a great sheet lowered from heaven full of unclean animals. A voice told Peter to kill and eat. His response was, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean.” Then the voice told Peter, “What God has cleansed you must not call common” (Acts 10:14–15). This was repeated three times. What did this strange vision mean? Even Peter wondered what the vision might mean (Acts 9:17).

To understand the meaning of the vision and Peter’s response, we must go all the way back to the book of Leviticus. God, in His Law, gave His people, Israel, very strict standards regarding their diet. We read about these restrictions in Leviticus 11.

These are the animals which you may eat . . . whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud—that you may eat. Nevertheless these you shall not eat among those that chew the cud or those that have cloven hooves: the camel, because it chews the cud

but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; the rock hyrax, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; the hare, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; and the swine, though it divides the hoof, having cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. (Leviticus 11:2–7).

Included in this list of animals they were not to eat were the rock hyrax, the hare (the Hebrew word *arnebeth* which was an undetermined animal), and swine (Leviticus 11:5–7). The Law also forbade eating anything from the sea that didn't have fins or scales (Leviticus 11:10). There were certain flying creatures and insects they could and couldn't eat as well (Leviticus 11:13–23). As a result of these laws, Jewish thinking included a very strict division between clean and unclean animals. No self-respecting Jew, including Peter, would ever eat anything but clean animals.

Some may ask why God made a distinction between clean and unclean animals. We are not told why, but we can make some educated guesses. First, there are some animals that are more liable to carry diseases. Since the preparation of food in those days wasn't anything like it is now, God was protecting Israel from the threat of an epidemic. The Israelites lived in close community. There were millions of them, and they often traveled together. If sickness broke out, it would affect many if not the entire community.

The second reason for the dietary laws, and probably the more important one, is that God wanted to distinguish His people from the other peoples that lived around them. In those days, the primary source of entertainment was feasting, so social contact mainly occurred at large banquets. It seems that God gave the Jews these peculiar dietary laws so they wouldn't mix socially with pagan Gentiles around them. God was preventing them from having social relationships with Gentiles so that they would not adopt the pagan practices of their idolatrous neighbors.

As the restrictions on interacting with Gentiles passed away, so did the laws pertaining to restrictions on the food. While the interpretation of Peter's vision was to see the Gentiles as "clean," there is also an immediate context of God declaring those animals clean for food. This is confirmed by Paul's recognition that all creatures of God can be received as food with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:1–5). Mark also recognized that Jesus also taught that all foods were clean in Mark 7:19. In the New Covenant, the old dietary laws have been fulfilled for us in Christ.

In Peter's day, the Jews viewed Gentiles as unclean. A strict Jew would never be a guest in a Gentile house, nor would he invite one to his home. Even the dirt from

a Gentile country was considered unclean. If anyone happened to track some Gentile dirt into Israel, it defiled the dirt of Israel. Therefore, when travelers left a Gentile country, they would always shake the dust off their feet to avoid polluting the land of Israel. That's why when Jesus sent out the seventy to preach the gospel, He told them that if anyone didn't receive their words, they were to shake the dust off their feet. In other words, they were to treat him as a Gentile (Matthew 10:5–14).

When Jesus came, He intended to make Jew and Gentile into one new man (see Ephesians 2:11–18). The deep divisions and hostility were to be a thing of the past. In Christ "there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all" (Colossians 3:11). This was an easy thing for Christ to accomplish through His life, death, and Resurrection; however, it was a very difficult thing for the Jew to practice.

God showed Peter through this vision in Acts 10 that he was no longer to divide people into categories of clean and unclean. Peter got the message and entered the house of Cornelius to share the gospel with them.

What a lesson in evangelizing and Christian living. Many Christians tend to categorize people—those who are "worthy" to hear the gospel and those who aren't; those God can save and those who are beyond help; those who are "good enough" to come to our church and those who should not be there because they are different from us. The fact is we are all sinners in need of grace. There is no one beyond the reach of God's grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. And we are commanded to preach the gospel and make disciples of all people, regardless of ethnicity, class, or any other distinction. This is far easier to do if we can look at people as God sees them—sinners who need to repent and turn to Christ in order to receive eternal life.



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, salvation is from you, and I praise you for it! The precious lesson that Peter learned in his vision still applies to us today. There is no partiality with you. You exemplified that when you ministered to little children, women, the poor, and the powerless. Examine my heart and root out any prejudice I have a tendency to show. Help me and my students to see others as you see them—as sinners who need to hear the gospel, repent, and receive your great grace. Teach me and my students to reflect your love and grace to all and to boldly share the truth of the gospel.



## COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Saul Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 11.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

*During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.*



## REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Circle Time

*In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.*

### PRAYER

*This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or an appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.*

**We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

*Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way:*

**Today let's say prayers of confession—and tell God that we are sorry for our sin against Him.**

*The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.*

**I'll start. Dear God, you are Holy and perfect so when I sin, it comes between you and me. I want my heart to be right with you, so I will**

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

confess my sin and ask you to forgive me. I am so sorry for . . . (insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of confession.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

## GOD'S WORD

*These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.*

- ? Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- ? Can you see God? *No. I cannot see God, but He always sees me.*
- ? Can God do all things? *Yes! God can do all His holy will.*
- ? Where do you learn how to love and obey God? *In the Bible alone.*
- ? Is God's Word true? *Yes! Every Word of God is true.*

*The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.*

### Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

**We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible.** *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number* *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* **We'll start right here.** *Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.* *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

- ? *Refer to Lesson 11 Flip Chart. Who was our lesson about last time? Saul!*
- ? **And where was Saul going?** *To Damascus.*
- ? **What did Saul plan to do in Damascus?** *Arrest Christians.*

That's right! Saul was changed forever when Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus. He was arresting Christians. And he planned to kill them. But Saul's plan changed when he saw the bright light and heard Jesus's voice calling to him. This man tried to destroy the truth about

Jesus. Now he was a Christian leader and apostle of Jesus Christ. He wanted to spread the truth about Jesus.

Saul (who is also known as Paul in the Bible) and the other apostles wanted to spread the truth about Jesus. But that wasn't so easy. You see, all the apostles were Jewish. And Jesus was Jewish. And pretty much everyone in the early church was Jewish. The Jewish Christians thought that God wanted them to go and preach to other Jews. And that IS what God wanted. But that is not ALL God wanted.

God was going to show the Jewish believers what else He wanted them to do. He would show them by bringing two men—Peter and Cornelius—together. Peter was a Jew. He was in Joppa. And Cornelius was a Gentile. He lived in Caesarea.

It seemed impossible for these two men to meet. Jews were not allowed to be seen with Gentiles. They were not supposed to even go to their homes. But nothing is impossible with God. And God had a plan! Listen as I read from the book of Acts. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

This is about Cornelius. It is in Acts 10:3. *Read the verse enthusiastically.*

Acts 10:3

? What did Cornelius see? *An angel of God.*

An angel of God came to Cornelius! The angel called his name. He said, "Cornelius!" Well, this was amazing! Angels are messengers of God. They bring God's Word to people. And God had a message for Cornelius! Remember, Cornelius was a Gentile. Gentiles usually did not know the true God or worship Him.

But Cornelius DID know God and worshipped Him. And God wanted Cornelius to know something very important. Listen to Acts 10:4. *Read Acts 10:4. Emphasize the answers to the questions below. Re-read the portions of the verse that will answer the questions as you ask them.*

Acts 10:4

? How did Cornelius feel when he saw the angel? *Re-read Acts 10:4. He was afraid!*

? What did Cornelius ask the angel? *What is it, Lord?*

What would God want with Cornelius the Gentile? Cornelius knew God, but he did not know about Jesus. God wanted Cornelius to know Jesus! And God had a way to make that happen!

God answered Cornelius and told him what he should do. Listen to Acts 10:5. *Read Acts 10:5 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

Acts 10:5

? Where did God want Cornelius to send men to? *The town of Joppa.*

? What were his men supposed to do in Joppa? *Go to Simon, also known as Peter.*

God wanted Cornelius to send men to Joppa to find Peter! But Cornelius didn't know Peter! And Peter did not know Cornelius! Remember, Peter

was a Jew. And Cornelius was a Gentile. But Cornelius did what the angel told him. He sent men to get Peter. The men told Peter that Cornelius wanted to meet with him.

? Do you know what this means? *Allow discussion.*

This means that Peter would need to go to Cornelius. He would have to go to Cornelius's house. And Jews did not do that! It was against the Jewish laws for a Jew to go to the house of a Gentile!

But Peter agreed to meet with Cornelius. This was not normal! And Peter knew it. This is what Peter said when he came to Cornelius's house. Listen as I read Acts 10:28. *Read Acts 10:28 enthusiastically.*

Peter told Cornelius and his family that it was against the law for a Jew to visit a Gentile. But Peter had learned something from God. Let's read Acts 10:28 again to find out what Peter learned. *Re-read Acts 10:28 emphasizing "I should not call any man common or unclean."*

? God had taught Peter that he should not call any man common or unclean. What do you think this means? *Allow discussion.*

God taught Peter that every man is special to God. Jews were not better than Gentiles. All people are sinners and need Jesus to forgive them of their sins. Everyone needs to be cleaned of sin.

Peter told Cornelius more! Listen to Acts 10:34–35. *Read Acts 10:34–35.*

*Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page.* Peter told Cornelius and his family that God does not have favorites. But everyone who fears God and believes the gospel can be saved! Peter, the Jew, shared the good news of Jesus with Cornelius, the Gentile. God taught them that He wants everyone to hear the good news!

Until now, Peter had only been teaching other Jews about Jesus. But God brought Peter to Cornelius's house so he could tell Gentiles about Jesus, too. And Peter did tell Cornelius and his family about Jesus. When they heard the good news about Jesus, they believed and became Christians, too!

Peter and Cornelius learned an important lesson that day. They learned that the good news about Jesus is for everyone! It is for Jews and Gentiles. It is for all nations!

*Refer to Lesson 6 Flip Chart.* That is exactly what Jesus told His apostles before He went back to heaven. It was the last thing Jesus said to them.

? Do you remember what Jesus said to the disciples? *Allow discussion.*

He told them to go and make disciples of ALL the nations. And Cornelius was from another nation. God wanted the gospel to go to the Gentiles. And He made that happen by bringing Peter and Cornelius together!

## Acts 10:28

## Acts 10:34–35

## SONG TIME

Refer to Matthew 28:19 Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Our memory verse from a few weeks ago reminds us that Jesus wants all nations to hear the gospel. That is what Peter did! And we should tell people the good news about Jesus, too! Let's sing that song together! Sing Matthew 28:19.

Turn to the Romans 1:16 Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Peter learned that everyone is special to God. The good news about Jesus is for everyone! Peter was not ashamed of the gospel. He told Cornelius and his family about Jesus. Sing the Memory Verse Song with me! Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times.

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. God wants the good news of Jesus to spread to ALL nations. The good news is for ALL people! Everyone needs to hear the gospel truth. And God wants His followers to tell them. Let's sing the song called, "Tell the Gospel News." Sing together while clapping.

Everyone needs to hear the good news of Jesus. Jesus is the ONLY way to be forgiven of sins. Let's sing "Clean My Heart." Sing together.

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

➤ Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

➤ Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.



## Gospel to Gentiles

### MATERIALS

- One Gospel to Gentiles Questions
- Masking tape

### INSTRUCTIONS

Mark a finish line on the floor with the masking tape. Have the students line up across the opposite end of the room. You may want to move to the hallway to give the students a chance to take large steps, skip, walk, etc. as they answer the questions and move to the finish line. Stand by the finish line with your question sheet. Ask each child a question, one at a time. If the child answers correctly, tell the whole class to move toward the finish line in a specific way, such as: take 3 giant steps, take 4 bunny hops, take 5 baby steps, etc. If the child does not answer correctly, give the answer and move to the next student. Mix up and repeat the questions until the class has moved over the finish line together.

Today we're going to play a game where you all get to work together. Line up along here.

Help students line up across from the finish line. I am going to ask each of you a question. And if you get the answer right, everyone gets to move forward toward the finish line. Point out the finish line. But you have to move the way I tell you, okay? I might tell you to take giant steps or baby steps, or hop, or something else. So listen carefully. Are you all ready? Play the game.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Peter was a Jew. Cornelius was a Gentile. It was against the law for Jews to visit with Gentiles. But Peter went to Cornelius's house. He told the good news of Jesus to Cornelius and his family. God wants ALL people and ALL nations to hear the good news. The good news of Jesus is for everyone!



# Peter Visits Cornelius

## MATERIALS

- At least one of the five Peter Visits Cornelius Coloring Sheets for each student
- Crayons
- Poster putty for putting the coloring sheets on the board

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Print enough of the five coloring sheets so each student has at least one. Be sure to pass out all five pictures. Students will color them. When finished, call on students to bring their sheets to the front of class. Begin with sheet #1 and go through sheet #5. Read the text on each sheet and have students put their sheets on the board in order from 1–5.*

**I have five different coloring sheets here. I am going to give each of you one.** *If less than five students, give some students more than one; if more than five students, give some students the same picture.* **These sheets show what we learned about today. I want you to color them first. Then I will call on you to bring your picture up, show it to**

**the class, and put it on the board in the right order. I'll call #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5. When you hear me call your number, bring your picture up! But first, let's color them.**

*When children are finished coloring, call on them to bring their pictures up and put them on the board in the proper order. If necessary, help students determine which picture they have. Review the pictures as they post them on the board.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

*When finished, go over the pictures again.* **The angel of the Lord came to the Gentile Cornelius. The angel told Cornelius to send men to find the Jew Peter. So, Cornelius sent men to Peter. The men brought Peter to Cornelius's house! Peter told Cornelius and his family the good news about Jesus, and they believed in Jesus and became Christians! God wants all people to hear the good news of Jesus! The good news is for everyone!**



# Memory Verse Review and Activity

**Romans 1:16a** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

## MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock
- Tape or poster putty

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one set of the Memory Verse Flashcards. Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card from the wall. Recite the verse again with the class. Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time, reciting the whole verse after each card is removed.*

**We're going to practice our memory verse.**

**Let's say it first.** *Point to each flashcard as you say each word and have the students repeat.*

Good job! Now I'm going to ask one of you to come up and take one of our cards down. Then we'll say the verse without that card! Do you think we can do it? Of course we can! **OK, let's do it!** *Call on a student to take down one card then recite the verse together. Help the students to recite the verse after each card is removed. Continue until the cards are gone.*

*You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Because Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the grave, sinners can have eternal life in heaven one day! That is good news! We should never be ashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God to salvation!



# Applying God's Word/Snack

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.*

Peter was a Jew. Cornelius was a Gentile. Jews and Gentiles did not talk to each other. But God wanted the Gentiles to hear the good news. Peter told Cornelius that all people are special to God. Peter shared the good news of Jesus with Cornelius and his family. They believed the good news and became Christians! The good news is for everyone!

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

It was against the law for Jews to visit Gentiles. But God sent Peter the Jew to the house of Cornelius. Cornelius was a Gentile. God wanted Peter to bring the good news to the Gentiles. God does not have favorites. He loves all peoples. Everyone who fears God and believes the gospel will be saved. Nothing is impossible with God!



## Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for Peter who shared the good news with a Gentile.
- Praise God that the good news about Jesus is for everyone.
- Pray that God will open people's hearts to the truth of Jesus Christ.

**Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.**

# Song Sheet

## **MATTHEW 28:19**

*(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")*

Shout: **Matthew 28:19!**

**Go therefore and make disciples**

*(Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?)*

**Of all the nations, baptizing them**

*(Brother John? Brother John?)*

**In the na-ame of the Father**

*(Morning bells are ringing,)*

**A-and of the So-on**

*(Morning bells are ringing.)*

**And of the**

*(Ding, ding, dong!)*

**Holy Spirit.**

*(Ding, ding, dong!)*

Shout: **Matthew 28:19!**

## **ROMANS 1:16**

*(To the tune of "Amazing Grace")*

**For I'm not a-ashamed**

*(Amazing grace!)*

**Of the gospel of Christ,**

*(How sweet the sound)*

**For it is the-e power o-of God**

*(That saved a wretch like me.)*

**To-o sa-alvation for**

*(I once was lost,)*

**Everyone who believes.**

*(But now am found,)*

**Romans one ver-erse si-ixteen.**

*(Was blind, but now I see.)*

## **TELL THE GOSPEL NEWS**

*(To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")*

**Oh, tell the gospel news.**

*(The farmer in the dell,)*

**Oh, tell the gospel news.**

*(The farmer in the dell.)*

**Jesus . . . He is alive!**

*(Hi-ho, the derry-o!)*

**Oh, tell the gospel news.**

*(The farmer in the dell.)*

**Christ gave His life for us.**

**He died upon the Cross,**

**So He could conquer sin and death,**

**And we can be with God!**

**We are free from sin.**

**We are free from death.**

**If we put our hope and trust—**

**Our hope and trust in Him!**

## **CLEAN MY HEART**

*(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")*

**In my heart, what does God see?**

*(Jesus loves me, this I know,)*

**Is He the one I want to please?**

*(For the Bible tells me so.)*

**Or does my heart need help, Oh, Lord?**

*(Little ones to Him belong,)*

**Clean out the sin and make it yours!**

*(They are weak, but He is strong.)*

**Yes, I need Jesus!**

*(Yes, Jesus loves me!)*

**Yes, I need Jesus!**

*(Yes, Jesus loves me!)*

**Yes, I need Jesus!**

*(Yes, Jesus loves me!)*

**Please, clean my heart today!**

*(The Bible tells me so.)*

**Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.**

