



Peter Visits Cornelius

Acts 10:1-44



► Bible Point

Tell everyone about Jesus.


Key Verse

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Preteens will tell someone about a relationship with Jesus.


Many fifth- and sixth-graders struggle with telling their friends about Jesus because it frightens them. While many of them know that the news they have is important, they feel cautious about possible rejection. Use this lesson to help them understand that the news they have is worth risking their status for.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Popularity Posters <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make posters about popularity, and try to act popular.	1 piece of poster board for every 8 kids, scissors, markers	Cut each poster board in half.
2 Bible Exploration	Visionary Games <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Explore the Bible passage using games.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, broom, bedsheet or towel, stuffed animals, ball Teacher Pack: “Peter and Cornelius” cards 	Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Separate the “Peter and Cornelius” cards.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Reaching and Teaching <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Think of ways to reach out to others and teach them about Jesus.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz, 1 poster board, tape, scissors, markers, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Cut the poster board in half. Tape each piece of poster board to a wall. Name the first poster “Disciple-Makers” and the second one “Teachers.”</p>
	<p>Choosing Who to Tell <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Role-play how they’d tell others about Jesus.</p>	<p>Bibles, sticky notes, scissors, tape, pens Teacher Pack: “Reaching the Unknowns” poster</p> 	<p>Cut apart the sections of the “Reaching the Unknowns” poster, and tape them around the room.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>Bible Buzz</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>1 sticky note per preteen, pens</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Peter Visits Cornelius

Acts 10:1-44

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Meet Cornelius

This passage begins at the home of Cornelius, a Roman centurion in Caesarea, the headquarters for the Roman occupation of that area. As a centurion, Cornelius would have been in charge of a unit of about 100 men, and he was considered a man of noble character.

For a non-Jew to have been considered God-fearing meant that Cornelius followed the Jewish religion to some degree, possibly to the greatest extent he could as a non-Jew. His vision of the angel at about three in the afternoon likely means that he was following Jewish religious practices since that was a regular time of prayer for the Jews. And it is to Cornelius' credit that when an angel of God spoke to him, he didn't hesitate to do what he was told.

God Speaks: A Tale of Two Visions

Peter was following normal Jewish religious practices, among which was the strict adherence to the dietary restrictions spelled out in Leviticus 11. Many of the forbidden animals described there were included in the sheet suspended before Peter in his vision. Being told to kill and eat "unclean" animals shocked Peter.

The challenge to Peter's beliefs didn't end when the sheet disappeared. It was obviously no coincidence that Cornelius' servants appeared just as Peter's vision ended. Peter was thinking through the meaning of his vision when he was summoned to go to the house of a non-Jew. The servants said that an angel had told Cornelius to send for Peter to hear what he had to say.

And God made it clear to Peter that the servants' arrival was connected to what God was trying to teach him. God told him that the men were there, that he had sent them, and that Peter was to go with them.

Peter knew that the vision concerned much more than food.

The Jesus Connection

Peter took a huge risk in following God's leading to reach out to Cornelius and his family. Peter followed God's leading without hesitation because Jesus was the cornerstone of his life.

Peter set an example for us by taking advantage of an opportunity to tell someone unexpected about his faith. We dare not ignore that example; rather, we must be willing to tell anyone who is interested about what God has done for us through Jesus. Pray and ask God to show you how you can share your faith and God's love. You can write your prayer here.



Popularity Posters Supplies

1 piece of poster board
for every 8 kids
scissors
markers

Popularity Posters Easy Prep

Cut each poster board
in half.

1 GETTING STARTED

Popularity Posters

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: **We're going to make some posters. Form groups of up to four and brainstorm about all of the things the world says will make you popular. Once you have a list, pick your favorite from the list and write it in large letters on the poster board. You'll have five minutes.**

Distribute markers and poster board to each group. Allow five minutes.

Say: **Great job creating these. Now bring them to me facedown so no one can see what you wrote. Then spread yourselves out across the room.**

Once you have all the posters and the kids are spread out in the room, tell them that you're going to hold up one of the posters for a few seconds. After they've read it, kids must do or act out what the poster says in order to "be popular."

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Once you've gone through all of the posters, lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Did any of these suggestions make you feel popular? Why or why not?
- Why is being popular so important?
- How would you define an outcast?
- When have you felt like an outcast?

Say: **There are people all around us who feel like outcasts. They often feel unpopular or unwanted. Today we're going to learn that Jesus came and died for everyone—including the outcasts. And we'll focus on the need to tell outcasts about him as we learn that God wants us to ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.**

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Visionary Games

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **It's easy to think that we should tell only people who we're comfortable being around about Jesus. But the truth is that everyone we know should hear about him—from us.**

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Buzz pages. Set out the broom, bedsheet or towel, stuffed animals, and ball. Have kids form four groups. (A group can be one person.) Give each group a Bible and one of the "Peter and Cornelius" cards.

Say: **Each group is going to create a game about its section of the Scripture. The passage and a basic idea for the game are on the cards I gave you, and you can use the supplies here in your game. You'll read your passage and flesh out the rules of the game. You can write your notes for the game in the "Visionary Games Notes" section of your Bible Buzz page. We want to make sure these games give people a good idea about what happened in your section of Scripture, so make sure that's clear.**

Give kids five minutes to read the passage and create their games.

Have groups go in order, each playing their game and explaining how the game related to the verses they read.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

After groups have presented, lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How did creating this game help you understand the passage better?**
- **What was the big deal about Peter speaking to these people about Jesus?**
- **When have you been hesitant to tell someone about Jesus?**
- **How can we gain courage to tell everyone about Jesus, like Peter did?**

Say: **Peter faced more than just being uncomfortable. He went against Jewish law when he preached about Jesus to the people in Cornelius' house. He was so convinced that these people needed to hear about Jesus that he was willing to risk his life.**

Have kids read the Key Verse, Matthew 28:19-20, on their Bible Buzz pages: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



Visionary Games Supplies

- Bibles
- Bible Buzz
- pens
- broom
- bedsheet or towel
- stuffed animals
- ball

Teacher Pack
"Peter and Cornelius" cards

Visionary Games Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Separate the "Peter and Cornelius" cards.



Reaching and Teaching Supplies

Bible Buzz
1 poster board
tape
scissors
markers
CD player
copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Go and Make Disciples" (Matthew 28:19) (track 15)

Reaching and Teaching Easy Prep

Cut the poster board in half. Tape each piece of poster board to a wall. Name the first poster "Disciple-Makers" and the second one "Teachers."

Say: **Jesus' command to the disciples applies to us, too. Whoever hasn't heard about Jesus needs to hear, and we can be the ones to tell them. We can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Reaching and Teaching

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Ask a willing child to read the Key Verse, Matthew 28:19-20, from the Bible Buzz pages: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Say: **Let's explore our Key Verse in more detail.**

Form two groups, and say: **Matthew 28:19-20 is often called the Great Commission because it's Jesus' charge to his disciples and to all believers to tell others about Jesus. This passage has two parts: telling others about Jesus so they can become Christians, and teaching those Christians how to live for Jesus. We're divided into two groups. The Disciple-Makers need to list as many ways as they can think of to reach out to people who don't know about Jesus. The Teachers should list ways to help Christians learn more about Jesus and grow in a relationship with Jesus.**

Give kids a few minutes to make their lists. When groups have finished, have each group look over the other group's list and add anything they think might work on that list. Then have kids each write down their two favorite ideas from each poster in the "Reaching and Teaching" section of their Bible Buzz pages.

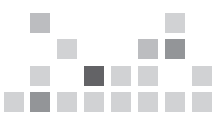
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which of these lists do you think is more important? Explain.
- Which of these "roles" is easier for you? Explain.
- Which of these ideas sounds like one you could do this week?

Say: **The Great Commission doesn't put one aspect over the other. Teaching and disciple-making are both important. Ultimately, it's God who works in people's hearts, but we have a role to play in his great work, just as Peter and Cornelius had a role to play. Let's sing a song to help us remember that God wants us to ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.**



Hand out copies of the lyrics page, and play “Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) (track 15 on the CD).



Oh, oh, oh yeah.

**The Bible says: “Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.
The Bible says: “Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.**

**Baptize them in the name of the Father,
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.
(Repeat.)**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

**Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations now.
The Bible says: “Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.**

**The Bible says: “Therefore, go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.
(Repeat.)**

“Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Choosing Who to Tell

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The Acts passage that we’ve studied today shows that God wants us to
► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS—even people who we think are outcasts.
That’s an easy thing to say, but how easy is it to actually go to others and tell them
about Jesus?**

Have kids get into groups of three or four. Distribute pens and six sticky notes to each group. Point out the poster sections around the room.

Say: **These pictures represent several situations that you might face as you attempt to tell others about Jesus. I’d like your group to take turns going to each of these mini posters and determining if the methods these people used to talk about Jesus are effective or not. Then use the sticky note to come up with an alternate idea of what to say. Write it on the sticky note, and put it by the poster.**

After students have placed their sticky notes, go around and read the alternate ideas kids came up with.



Choosing Who to Tell Supplies

- Bibles
- sticky notes
- scissors
- tape
- pens

Teacher Pack

“Reaching the Unknowns” poster

Choosing Who to Tell Easy Prep

Cut apart the sections of the “Reaching the Unknowns” poster, and tape them around the room.



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you had a real-life situation that was similar to one of these. How did you react to it?
- What's so difficult about telling others about Jesus?
- Why is a relationship with Jesus so important?
- What are some practical things you've learned today about sharing Jesus with people?

Say: **Sharing our faith can be one of the most intimidating things we do. But we're called to do it. It was hard for Peter, too, but he knew that God wants us to ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS. Let's commit to doing that this week.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS this week.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Choose one of your ideas from "Reaching and Teaching" on your Bible Buzz page, and do that thing!**
- **Have one of your parents come up with some arguments people might give you when you talk about believing in Jesus. Practice coming up with your answers to those arguments, so you're prepared when you share your faith with someone.**
- **Take one of the ideas you wrote on a sticky note and use that to talk to someone about Jesus this week.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Peter wasn't sure that everyone needed to hear about Jesus, but he was eventually convinced that God wants us to ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS. Let's show our commitment to that Great Commission by following through this week with our Daily Challenge.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they committed to and what they learned about telling everyone about Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families! Available at group.com/digital.

Close with a prayer. Hand out a sticky note and pen to each preteen. Have kids each write the name of one person they feel needs to hear about Jesus from them. Then have kids pray, asking God to give them the courage to tell that person about Jesus.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

1 sticky note per
preteen
pens

**Lyrics** ■■■■**Go and Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)**

Oh, oh, oh yeah.

The Bible says: "Therefore, go

And make disciples of all the nations" now.

The Bible says: "Therefore, go

And make disciples of all the nations" now.

Baptize them in the name of the Father,

The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

(Repeat.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Therefore, go

And make disciples of all the nations now.

The Bible says: "Therefore, go

And make disciples of all the nations" now.

The Bible says: "Therefore, go

And make disciples of all the nations" now.

(Repeat.)

"Go and Make Disciples" (Matthew 28:19) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

