

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

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Peter's Vision

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

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 [Little Learners playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: bedsheet or blanket, stuffed animals

RESOURCES: [Bible Story Picture \(1/SG\)](#)

Gather kids to watch the [God's Big Story Video](#), then circle up for a short review:

In today's Bible story, you will be reinforcing 4 main points from our story: God speaks to Peter, God loves everyone, Jesus is for everyone, and the Holy Spirit is for everyone.

Friends, can you say Peter? *Peter*

Can you say Cornelius? *Cornelius*

Have kids hold the edges of the sheet with stuffed animals on top

Peter was talking to God, and God gave him a vision

Raise and lower the sheet

Say this with me: God speaks. *God speaks*

Keep gently moving the sheet

God showed Peter that He loves all people

Say this with me: God loves everyone. *God loves everyone*

Set the sheet down

Cornelius loved God, and Peter went to tell him about Jesus

Point outward

Say this with me: Jesus is for everyone. *Jesus is for everyone*

Place hands on heart

The people believed in Jesus, and the Holy Spirit came to them

Say this with me: The Holy Spirit is for everyone. *The Holy Spirit is for everyone*

Repeat all 4 again with motions

That's right, friends! God speaks, God loves everyone, Jesus is for everyone, and the Holy Spirit is for everyone!

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Thank you for the world so sweet. kids repeat

Thank you for the food we eat. kids repeat

Thank you for the birds that sing. kids repeat

Thank you God for everything. kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

The Holy Spirit gives us power.

—from Acts 1:8

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.