

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Scripture: Acts 10:1-17, 34-38

Memory Verse ~ Acts 10:34: ... *"I truly understand that God shows no partiality..."*

Theme of the story: The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) lists the rules that God gave to Moses and the people of Israel regarding the foods that were considered clean and those that were unclean. Clean foods were eaten and unclean foods were not to be eaten. God told Peter that everything he makes is clean. Peter came to realize that God also meant people. All people are worthy of God's love.

Retelling For Young People

In Acts 10, we read about a meeting between two very different people, Peter and Cornelius. Peter was a Jewish man who followed Jesus, while Cornelius was a Roman soldier and a Gentile. Despite their differences, God had arranged for them to meet so that they could both come to know the power of the Gospel.

Cornelius and his family were very religious people. One day, an angel appeared to him and told him to send for the apostle Peter. Cornelius was eager to obey. Cornelius was filled with excitement and sent servants out to find Peter.

Meanwhile, Peter was having a vision of his own. In the vision, he saw a sheet filled with all kinds of unclean animals, such as pigs and snakes. A voice told Peter to get up and eat, but he refused. He said he had never eaten anything thought unclean by Jewish law. Peter heard a voice saying, "Peter, do not call unclean what I have made clean." When Peter woke up from the vision, he knew that God was trying to tell him something.

Cornelius' messengers found Peter and he agreed to go with them to meet Cornelius. When Peter arrived at Cornelius' house, he understood that God had put them together for a purpose - so that everyone could learn about Jesus and be saved. Peter realized that even non-Jewish people could receive salvation by having faith in Jesus. Peter taught Cornelius about Jesus, and Cornelius believed and was baptized.

Family discussion: Talk about rules. What rules does your household have? What are they based on - safety, cleanliness, routine, tradition? Can rules ever be changed?

Activities & Crafts:

Animals

Cut out or print pictures of different animals. Get two large baskets. Show your child the pictures of different animals and ask them if they know the names of any of the animals. Ask the child to sort the animals into two groups such as farm animals and wild animals (or zoo animals.) Put them in the correct basket. As they work, encourage them to name the animals they are sorting and talk about any interesting characteristics of the animals.

Everyone Is Special

You will need: drawing paper, crayons or colored pencils

Have your child draw as many different people as they can (different sizes, hair, skin, eye color, ages, etc.) Discuss how people can be different but everyone is special in God's eyes and God loves everyone.

Family Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for making each of us special. Help us to remember that everyone is your child. Help us to love one another. Amen.