

A VISION FOR EVERYONE



Filled with God's power, the disciples

talked about Jesus everywhere they went. And they performed miracles, just like Jesus did. Peter and the others **HEALED** people when they prayed in the name of Jesus.

A couple of times, when the Sadducees locked them up in prison, an angel came to bust them out. Then they went right back to talking about Jesus again. Jews all over Jerusalem were hearing about Jesus, and many of them were deciding **THEY** wanted to be friends with Jesus too!

More and more Jews in Jerusalem were following Jesus. *But what about the people who weren't Jews? All the other people of the world—people the Jews called "Gentiles"—could **THEY** be friends with Jesus? Could they be the children of God too?*

Ever since the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Jewish people had enjoyed a **SPECIAL** relationship with God. But God had promised Abraham something. From Abraham's family—from Israel—would come a blessing for the **WHOLE** world. *Remember that promise?*

Not a blessing only for Israel. A blessing "for the whole world."

None of Jesus' disciples had given this much thought. God's love wasn't for **EVERYONE**. It was just for the children of Israel. *Right?*

Then Peter had a dream.

Well, it wasn't really a dream—it was a **VISION**. *What's a vision?* It's like a dream, only you aren't sleeping when you have it.



One day Peter was on his roof, praying. *Have you ever prayed on your roof before? No?* That's probably because you don't live when Peter lived. Back in Peter's day, roofs were flat. People used their roofs the same way we use back porches and patios today.

Peter was praying on his roof when **SUDDENLY** he had a vision. In this vision, God showed him something that looked like a giant sheet being lowered from the sky.



Inside the giant sheet were all the animals the Israelites weren't supposed to eat, according to the laws God gave to Moses, like **PIGS** and **CAMELS** and **RABBITS**.

Then a voice said, "Get up, Peter! Kill one of these animals and eat!"

Peter, who had always followed the Jewish rules about food, said, "No! I have never eaten anything unclean!"

But then the voice said, "Don't call anything unclean that God has made clean."

Peter was very confused. *Don't call anything unclean that God has made clean? What did **THAT** mean?* Peter had no idea.

Just then, three men knocked on Peter's door. They were the servants of a Roman army commander named **CORNELIUS**.

Cornelius wasn't Jewish. He was a Gentile. Still, Cornelius loved God, and God had given Cornelius a dream of his own. In his dream an angel had told him to send men to get Peter. The angel even told Cornelius where Peter would be staying.

Now Peter knew what his vision meant. Up to that time, Peter and the other disciples had **NEVER** talked to Gentiles, because they believed they were "unclean." Like the animals the Israelites weren't supposed to eat.

But God was telling Peter not to treat anyone like that. Both Jews **AND** Gentiles were God's children!



A VISION FOR EVERYONE

FAMILY CONNECTION

ACTS 10



EVERYDAY TRUTH

God loves us all
the same!

TALK

What was God trying to tell Peter in his vision?

Why do you think it's important to treat all
God's children the same?

Dear
God...

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for loving all of Your
children the same! Please help us to love all
people the way You love them. Amen.



So Peter went to see Cornelius and his family. He told them all about **JESUS** and the good news. And Cornelius's whole family became followers of Jesus that day! Then Cornelius and his family were filled with God's power. They began speaking in different languages, just like the Jewish believers.

Peter and the other disciples were **AMAZED**. For the first time they realized that the good news about Jesus was for **EVERYONE!** Jesus was the blessing God had promised Abraham—the blessing for the **WHOLE WORLD!**



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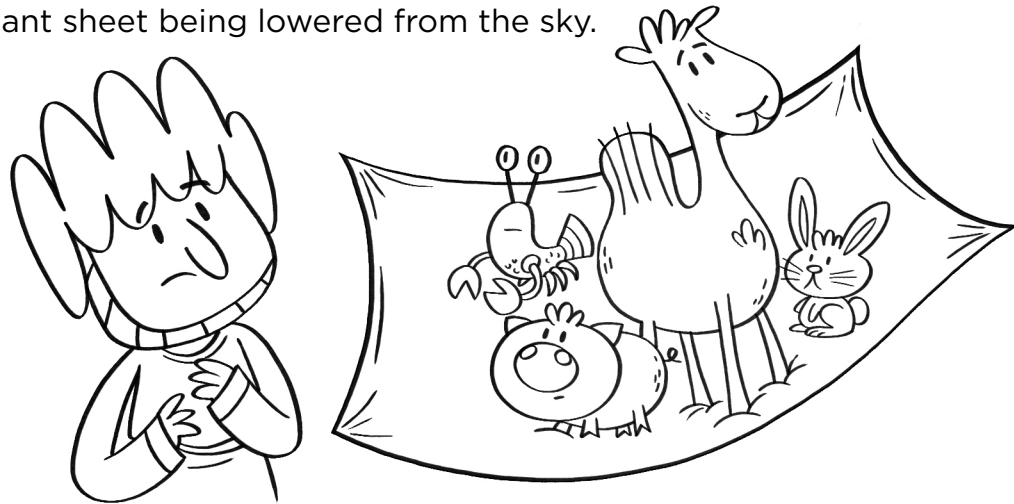
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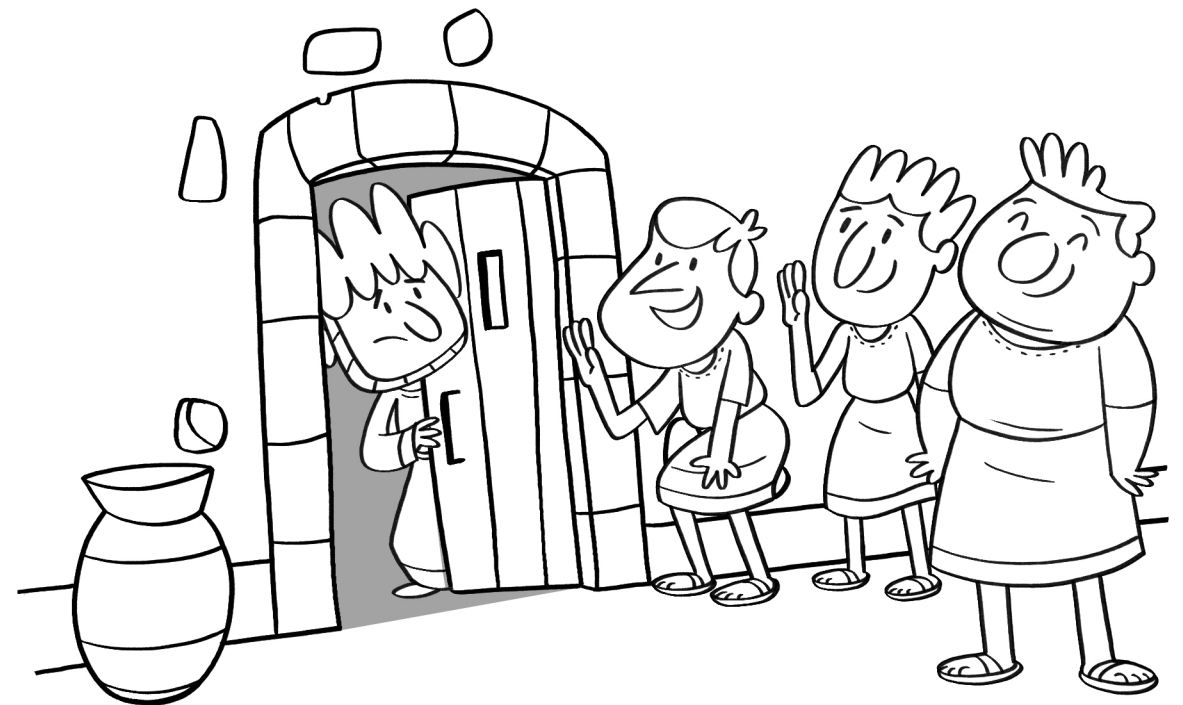
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