

R E A D: Acts 10:30-43

Main Idea: Cornelius is ready to hear all that God has commanded. So Peter shares about how Jesus conducted his ministry and was eventually killed by crucifixion, but God raised him from the dead. As a result, people could be forgiven through believing in him.

DISCUSS

Children: How scary that must have been! How would you feel if you were praying and all of a sudden someone was in the room with you? In shiny clothes, telling you God has heard your prayer! Would you hide? Would you tell your parents? Or would you just do what you were told to do? Cornelius listened to the man and called Peter to find out what God wanted him to know.

Teen: Both Peter and Cornelius were given orders by God to follow. Who was God teaching? Who would have missed something if the other had not listened to God? Cornelius was told something in a vision. God could have at that time told him about Jesus, but instead He is sending a man (same thing happened when Saul was blinded). Why do you think it is that God wants His people to be the ones telling others about Jesus?

Adult: The pieces start to come together. As Peter preaches, he says "You know" twice. Cornelius knew about what had happened. Why didn't Peter go into more detail about the Jewish history? Or how unfair the trial was? Or how they did the crucifixion? Why did he focus on the witnesses to the crucifixion? Was it due to Cornelius' unique position as part of the army and a leader of men? Would this sermon have been enough to convict you of the need for your baptism?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Romans 15:13 (ESV)
May the God of hope fill
you with all joy and peace
in believing, so that by the
power of the Holy Spirit you
may abound in hope.





READ: Acts 10:44-48

Main Idea: At the point Peter talks about forgiveness of sins being available through faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes on the Gentiles who were hearing this. Peter was amazed and asks can anyone withhold baptism from them. Evidently the thought of refusing baptism (washing away sins Acts 22:16) was still in Peter's mind. What greater way could God show Peter his error, than by this unique demonstration of the Spirit. Those who believed were baptized and they enjoyed fellowship together for some days.

DISCUSS

Children: Jesus tried to make sure that the Jews understood that now, the Gentiles could also be baptized and be part of God's family. Surely that was hard for the Jews to understand. After all – the Jews had been God's chosen people for many years. (Gentiles are people who are not born to Jewish families) But it no longer mattered if people were Jews or Gentiles. Miracles helped people believe in Jesus and in his words after he was crucified and the apostles taught his word. This visual of the Holy Spirit being given to Gentiles would have clearly been supernatural to them.

Teen: Peter was taught by Jesus himself but there was still more to learn. Do you ever know everything? Does God ever quit teaching us? Who learned something because these two men obeyed God? Has there been a time you have learned something new while teaching or talking to someone about God?

Adult: How would you have felt if you had been one of the believers who came with Peter? What do you suppose their conversations on the trip had been about? Do you think they had an inkling that the church was about to be opened to Gentiles? As they returned to Joppa, what topic do you think was top of their minds? Verse 45 says the circumcised believers were surprised that the Holy Spirit had been poured out "even on Gentiles." Do you think this shows their biases about Jews vs. Gentiles? Do you think Peter was surprised as well or had his vision prepared him so that this was not such a bombshell for him?

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