

KICKOFF!

WEEK 4 — A SURPRISING VISION

OCTOBER 25, 2026

Main Point:

Jesus is for everyone.

This Week's Message:

The Church largely believed that the good news of Jesus was just for Hebrew people. But God gave Peter a vision and sent him to a Gentile's home to show him that Jesus came for everyone.

Scripture:

Acts 10:1-48, Acts 11:1-18; Galatians 3:26-29

This Month's Memory Verse:

"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."
John 13:34-35 (NirV)

Provided Videos: See www.glendalechristian.org/summitvolunteerresources

- Game Video
- Bible Story Video
- Review Quiz Video
- Worship Video: Kids
- Worship Video: Runnin
- Worship Video: Praise You Anywhere

Suggested Order of Service:

1. Game Video – 3 Min
2. Icebreaker Activity – 5 Min
3. Message – 25 Min Total
 - a. Lesson – 15 Min
 - b. Bible Story Video – 2 Min
 - c. Discussion Time – 5 Min
 - d. Review Quiz Video – 3 Min
4. Memory Verse Activity – 10 min
5. As time allows:
 - a. Work on Take-Home Page
 - b. Worship Videos

GAME VIDEO:

Food Fight 1

ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY

Flying Pigs

Have the leaders or a few volunteers hold the four corners of the large white bedsheet. Place all the stuffed animals into the center of the sheet. Have the kids surround the sheet, grab the edges, and work together to launch the animals up into the air as high as they can without letting them hit the floor!

Explain: It takes a lot of teamwork to keep all those crazy animals in the air! Today, we are going to read a story about a time when one of Jesus' closest friends had a wild vision about a giant sheet falling from the sky filled with all kinds of strange animals.

LESSON:

Main Point:

Jesus is for everyone.

Scripture:

Acts 10:1-48, Acts 11:1-18; Galatians 3:26-29

Introduction

Have you ever felt left out? Like you weren't part of the club? It happens to most of us. You might not make the team. You might be rejected by a group of your peers who say "If you don't wear these pants, you're not cool."

How does that make you feel? Not great right?

That's normal for people. We make little groups, and try to keep other people out of them. Thank God that the church is a place where everyone is welcome! That's what makes the church beautiful!

Play Bible Story Video Here

Transition

But can I tell you a secret that people don't always talk about? That wasn't always the case. The Church started out kind of like a little club. Jesus was Jewish, and pretty much all of his first followers were Jewish as well. And they actually thought that the good news of Jesus was *only* for Jewish people. But Jesus is for everyone!

Cornelius The Outsider (A Roman soldier)

There was a guy named Cornelius who lived in a city called Caesarea. Cornelius was a super important soldier. But more importantly, he was a Gentile. What does that mean?

In the eyes of these first-century Israelites, there were two kinds of people in the world – Jewish people like them, and everyone else. Their word for everyone else was "Gentile."

For Israelites, Gentiles weren't just outsiders. They were dirty. You weren't allowed to enter a Gentile's home, or have one in your own house for that matter. These things were actually against the law!

Cornelius was a Gentile – an outsider. But he was also a really solid dude. He prayed to God, he was generous, and supported those in need. One afternoon he had a vision of an angel, and the angel told him that Jesus heard his prayers, and to track down a guy named Peter, who was in Joppa. So he sent some guys over to Joppa to find Peter.

Peter's Weird Dream (A man sleeping)

Meanwhile in Joppa, Peter went to pray on a roof. Because praying on a roof seems pretty awesome. It was lunchtime, and Peter was getting hungry. He suddenly had a vision where the sky opened up, and a giant sheet fell down from the sky. Inside this sheet were a bunch of four-footed animals. Cows, lizards, birds, and lots of other critters. And in this vision, a voice spoke to Peter and told him to pick an animal to kill and eat.

Breaking the Law

The Jewish faith had some really strict food laws. Some animals were considered clean, and some animals were considered dirty. You ate the clean ones, but the dirty ones were off limits. And all the animals on this sheet were the forbidden, dirty ones.

Peter was shocked! He said "Surely not, Lord!"

Peter was like, "No way, God! I'm not eating any of those dirty animals!"

But then the voice said "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

And from that day on, Peter ate lizard omelets for breakfast every day. The end!

Just kidding.

A Knock At The Door (Knocking)

While Peter was thinking about what kind of Pigeon stew recipes he could come up with, two men knocked at the door. They were the two Gentiles that Cornelious had sent to fetch Peter! They asked Peter to come back with them and tell the Good News to Cornelious' whole family.

Peter realized that this is what his vision was all about. He had to stop thinking of Gentiles as dirty, and accept them, because God can make them just as clean as anyone else!

So Peter did something groundbreaking. He invited these two Gentiles into his home to be his guests!

The next day, Cornelius' house was full of Gentiles. And when Peter got there, he walked right on in.

They all knew that Peter was breaking the Jewish laws by going inside, but Peter told them all about his vision, and what it meant.

The Holy Spirit for All

Peter began talking to these Gentiles about Jesus. Spending time with them, hearing their stories, and eating with them. As he was talking with them, they received the Holy Spirit, just like the Jewish people did on the day of Pentecost. Peter and the Jewish friends he had with him were absolutely mind blown! Jesus was for everyone, from any race, any background, anywhere!

If it wasn't for that moment, you and I might not be at church today. The early church believed that they were supposed to keep the good news of Jesus safe in their club. They believed that there were "clean" and "unclean" people who either did, or didn't belong in the church. But this moment blew that idea into a million pieces.

Sometimes people today still get treated like outsiders. We might look at people who come from a different country, or come from different backgrounds, and think, *"They probably don't belong at church."*

But Peter's vision reminds us that Jesus doesn't care about any of that. Jesus looks at the people the world calls "outsiders" and invites them to know Him.

Many years after this, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to a church to remind them that because of Jesus, all the old labels that used to separate people don't matter anymore.

Galatians 3:26-29

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Paul says it doesn't matter who you are. Where you come from. Nothing stops you from being part of Jesus' Kingdom.

At first Christians believed that Jesus was only for Jewish people. But Jesus used lizards, donkeys, and chickens to send an important message to Peter. Everyone can belong to Jesus.

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for showing us that your love is for everyone. Please forgive us when we forget that, and treat your church like an exclusive club. Gives us the eyes to see people the way you see them, and give us the reminders that we belong even when we feel left out.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you had to invent a crazy new food by mixing two things together (like a donut and a chicken sandwich), what would you make?
2. Who was Cornelius, and why did the early believers think he was an outsider?
3. What fell down from the sky in Peter's weird dream?
4. When Peter woke up, he realized the dream wasn't really about animals or food. What was it actually about?
5. How do you think Cornelius felt when Peter finally told him that he belonged in Jesus' family?
6. Why do you think people sometimes try to leave others out of their clubs or friend groups?
7. Who is someone at your school who seems a little different from you? How can you show them that Jesus loves them this week?

REVIEW VIDEO

MEMORY VERSE CARD GAME ACTIVITY:

*"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."
John 13:34-35 (NirV)*

Printed cards are provided for the memory verse games. There are 3 stacks of cards – one is easier, one is harder, and one is words that are not in the verse to make it harder for kids as needed. See the Memory Verse Card Games Guide for a variety of games you can choose from to help your students memorize the verse in fun and interactive ways.