

LESSON 5: PETER'S VISION OF ANIMALS

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 Acts 10:9-43

09/20/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Acts 10:9-43
- In This Passage: Peter has a vision of animals coming down from the sky. Although these specific animals were previously forbidden as food, God tells him to eat the animals. Later, Peter talks to a Gentile named Cornelius and realizes that his vision demonstrated that God doesn't show favoritism but welcomes anyone from any place.
- Bible Point: God is welcoming...
- Application: ...so we're welcoming.
- Summary Verse: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory for your unfailing love and faithfulness" (Psalm 115:1).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is welcoming.* Kids often form cliques and exclude others. It's also common for girls this age to give ultimatums like "If you want to be *my* friend, you can't be *her* friend." Help kids see that God loves everyone equally and wants to welcome everyone into his family.
- Think About: Think of a place where you feel welcome. How can you help kids feel the same way at your church?

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to inspire your kids to be more welcoming at church, in their schools, and in their neighborhoods.

Quick Tip

- Walk into your church as if you're a family visiting for the first time. Is there clear signage directing you to the children's ministry? Would you be able to see that signage if the lobby were full of people? What about when you get to your children's ministry area? Does it make kids excited to be there? Would parents feel safe leaving their kids there? What happens when a new child enters your room? Consider all these questions, and think of how your ministry could communicate even better that God is welcoming.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids split into “good” and “bad” groups based on food choices, come back together, and pray for other countries.

Supplies

- Bible
- paper
- markers
- bedsheet
- world map (see Tip)



OBJECT LESSON

Kids use soap to make oil and water mix.

Supplies

- vegetable oil
- dish soap
- warm water
- craft sticks (1 for every 2 kids)
- clear plastic cups (1 per child)
- stopwatch or clock

Easy Prep

- Pour about ½ inch of oil into half the cups. Then pour about ½ inch of water into the remaining cups.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids use M&M's to explore how God loves everyone.

Supplies

- Bibles
- M&M's candy (about 5 pieces per child)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a chaotic version of basketball.

Supplies

- 2 laundry baskets
- small balls or paper wads (3 per person)
- painter's tape
- clock or cellphone timer
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place a laundry basket at each end of the room, like basketball hoops on a basketball court.
- About 3 to 5 feet in front of each basket, tape a throwing line that kids cannot cross when trying to make a shot into the basket.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids stand in a tight circle to exclude others.

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Kids make wooden welcome signs.

Supplies

- craft sticks (8 per child)
- Glue Dots
- pencils
- paint
- paintbrushes

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids thank God for welcoming them just as they are.

Supplies

- paper
- pens

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids show their goofiest faces to everyone around them.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say “snappy mirthgray” (which rhymes with happy birthday).
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we’re going to learn that God is welcoming, so we’re welcoming.**

Share

- Tell kids about a person who always makes *you* feel welcome.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about people who always make *them* feel welcome.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Acts 10, and say: **People like the ones we talked about are reflecting God’s heart! There was a time people who loved God thought God was only for certain people. But in today’s Bible story, we’ll see how one man realized that God is welcoming to all people! Let’s see what God did to show how welcoming he is. God is always with us and ready to talk to us. One way God reveals his welcoming heart to us is through the Bible. It’s his special book. Before we dig in to the Bible, let’s talk to God.**

Pray, praising God for welcoming us.

**Supplies**

- Bible
- paper
- markers
- bedsheet
- world map (see Tip)

Tip

- If it's too hard to find a world map, consider selecting various countries and printing a map of each country on a separate page. Be sure the countries are labeled so kids know what countries they are.

Draw Your Favorite Food

Distribute paper and markers. Say: **Today's story has something to do with food. Everyone, draw your favorite food.** Allow time.

Say: **Now I'm going to make up some rules about what food is okay to eat. First, I am going to say that any food that has red on it is *not* okay to eat. If your food has red on it, go stand in that corner. Face the wall. And no talking!** Point to a corner. Have kids with red on their food go there, while you and the remaining kids exchange high-fives for being in the "good" group.

Repeat, changing the rules as follows. Before each category, everyone will gather back in the middle of the room. Then kids who fit into the category you name will go stand in the corner.

- Any food that you typically eat with your hands instead of silverware is bad.
- Any food that's a dessert is bad.
- Any food with meat is bad.

Have kids in the "bad" group stay there for the last one. Say: **In the Old Testament part of the Bible, God had made rules about what foods were okay to eat. Certain kinds of meat were okay, but other kinds weren't okay. We don't know all the reasons God put those rules in place, but we do know that he wanted his chosen people to be different from other people and that some meat wasn't safe for their health at that point. The rules about what to eat became so important to God's people, who were Jewish, that they wouldn't even associate with people who ate the bad meat. It was like our room right now—the good group and the bad group. And they thought God's love was only for people who ate the right kinds of food.**

Ask: • **How does it feel to be labeled as "good" or "bad"?**

• **What are reasons people separate into two groups today?** Examples could include more playful things such as rival sports team fans or more significant things like politics, race, and religion. Kids also often separate themselves automatically by gender. Let kids discuss this question within their good or bad groups.

Say: **We often find reasons to divide people. That's what happened in Bible times, too! But God is welcoming, and he wanted to make sure *everyone* could know his love. So let's see what he did in the Bible in the life of a man named Cornelius. Cornelius loved God, but he wasn't Jewish. Peter loved God and was Jewish. That means Peter *did* follow God's rules for what to eat.**

Lower a Sheet

While kids remain in their groups, collect their pictures and put them all on a sheet. At this point, kids in the bad group can turn around. Have two adult or teen helpers (or use a child if needed) each hold two corners of the sheet. Ask your helpers to raise the sheet above their heads and stand near the good group.

Read Acts 10:9-16, with your helpers lowering the sheet to demonstrate the vision.

Ask: • **What do you think this vision meant?**

Say: **Peter was confused because he knew that the rules about what to eat and what not to eat came from God. It can be confusing for us, too, but we do know that God was telling Peter something important: God is welcoming, so we're welcoming. God was telling Peter he welcomed *everyone* into**

his family, no matter what they ate.

After the vision, God sent some of Cornelius' servants to find Peter. They wanted Peter to come talk to Cornelius. Even though Cornelius was in the "bad food" group, Peter went with the servants because he knew that's what God's vision meant.

Have kids in each group take one step closer to the other group.

Say: **Listen to some things Peter said at Cornelius' house.**

Read Acts 10:25-26. Have kids take one step closer to the other group.

Read Acts 10:28. Have kids take one step closer to the other group.

Read Acts 10:34-35. Have the two groups mix together.

Pray for Other Countries

Say: **When God told Peter, "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean," Peter knew God was referring to people. Peter learned that God is welcoming, so we're welcoming. He welcomed Cornelius even though Cornelius was in the other group. He realized that God welcomes people from every country if they love God!**

Reread Acts 10:34-35.

Say: **Since Peter learned that God welcomes people from every country, let's pray for people in other countries.**

Get out the world map or the individual pages with maps of other countries. Have kids gather around the map and take turns putting their hands on a country and praying for people in that country to know and love Jesus.

Ask: • **Who is someone you could tell about Jesus' love?**

Say: **God is welcoming, so we're welcoming. Everyone needs to hear about Jesus' love. It doesn't matter if they eat differently from you, speak another language, live in a different country, like a different sports team, or aren't the same gender as you. We can show God's love to everyone because God is welcoming!**



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

A New Mix

Supplies

- vegetable oil
- dish soap
- warm water
- craft sticks (1 for every 2 kids)
- clear plastic cups (1 per child)
- stopwatch or clock

Easy Prep

- Pour about ½ inch of oil into half the cups. Then pour about ½ inch of water into the remaining cups.

Combine Oil and Water

Say: **I have a challenge for you!** Hold up a cup with some oil and a cup with some water. **Can you combine these liquids into one cup so they stay mixed together for at least a minute?**

- Have kids form pairs, and give each pair a cup of oil, a cup of water, and a craft stick to stir the liquids.
- As you keep time, let kids problem-solve as they try to mix the two liquids. They may try to stir faster or slower or in different directions. Or they may pour the combined liquids from one cup to another.
- As pairs work, ask questions like “How’s it going?” and “What observations have you made?”

Add Soap

Say: **Oil and water don’t mix—or do they? There’s one way to get these two liquids to get along and mix together longer. It’s called an *emulsion*. An emulsion is a mixture of oil and water that doesn’t separate. Hand creams are emulsions, and so is mayonnaise. They mix because they’re kept together by compounds called emulsifiers. Let’s add one now and see what happens!**

- Have pairs take turns adding several good squirts of dish soap to their cups of oil and water.
- Have pairs mix the oil and water again. This time, they’ll stay mixed longer.
- If pairs find that the oil and water separate again, have them add a few more squirts of soap and mix again.
- Time to see how long the oil and water stay mixed together.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What do you see? What happened to the oil and water when you added the dish soap?**

Say: **Soap acts like an emulsifier. It brings the oil and water together.**

Ask: • **How are the oil and water like the two groups in our Bible story?**

Say: **The two groups in our Bible story didn’t get along, and they tended to stay away from each other. But God is welcoming. Like the dish soap brought oil and water together, through Jesus, God brought Jews and Gentiles together as members of his family. He told Peter that it was okay to befriend and share the good news of Jesus with Gentiles and welcome them to the new churches. But you’ll notice that after some time, even our emulsion naturally wants to separate again. Even after this Bible story, there were times the Jews and Gentiles still struggled to get along in the early churches.**

Ask: • **What things can make our friendships break apart?**

• **What helps keep friendships together?**

Say: **Like we kept mixing and adding soap, we can keep looking to God as the one who unites people—even today! On our own, we’ll come apart, but God keeps bringing people together and welcoming everyone who believes in Jesus into his family.**



Does God Really Love Everyone?

Supplies

- Bibles
- M&M's candy (about 5 pieces per child)

Set It Up

Say: **In the Bible story, Peter thought Cornelius' group was just not as good as the Jewish people. Peter's group thought God's love was only for the Jews.**

Ask: • **Have you ever felt like that? For example...** Without naming names, tell about a person you've had a hard time loving. It might be someone you know in real life or someone from a recent news story. Then allow kids to respond.

Say: **It's hard for me to imagine God loving someone like that. So...does God really love everyone—even people like that? Let's dig in to that.**

Dig Deeper

Say: **Let's see what the Bible has to say about God's love.**

Have a child read John 3:16.

Ask: • **This verse says God loved *the world*. Who's included in that? Who's not?**

Say: **God loved *the world* so much that he sent Jesus to die for us. Notice this verse doesn't say "God loved the Jewish people so much..." or "God loved people who are usually nice so much..." In fact, listen to what the Bible says about what *all* of us were like in God's eyes when Jesus died for us.**

Have a child read Romans 5:8, 10.

Ask: • **How does it feel to hear yourself described as a sinner or God's enemy?**

Say: **It's hard to imagine a love so big that Jesus would die for us even though he knew everything we'd done wrong. But that's how much he loves us. Why? Because God *is* love. And love is welcoming.**

Read 1 John 4:7-8.

Ask: • **Based on these verses, why does it matter if we're loving and welcoming?**

Say: **God is love, and we show his heart when we love and welcome others...even if they're hard to love. Peter had to learn that God doesn't pick favorites. God is welcoming, and he invites everyone to be a part of his family. I'll show you what I mean.**

Eat M&M's

Ask: • **What's your favorite color?**

Say: **You know what comes in a lot of colors? M&M's. I'm going to give you each a small handful.**

Put them on the table in front of you, and don't eat any yet.

Give each child five M&M's, trying to give them each a variety of colors. Then have kids form pairs.

Say: **The older child in each pair will go first. You'll close your eyes and randomly pick a piece of candy. Your partner will see which color you pick, but you won't. Then, without opening your eyes, guess which color you ate.**

Allow time for both partners to have a turn.

Say: **Earlier you shared your favorite color. But it doesn't apply to M&M's, does it? You wouldn't reject all the M&M's that aren't your favorite color. And if I said you could eat only one color, that'd be a big bummer. When it comes to M&M's, they're all good!**

Ask: • **How does the way you view different M&M's remind you of God's love?**

Say: **God is welcoming to everyone. He doesn't reject certain people. When Jesus died on the cross, it was for *everyone*—even the people we find hard to love! God invites everyone to be a part of his family, like you'd invite all those M&M's into your mouth! Let kids finish the rest of their M&M's.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Block It or Basket

Supplies

- 2 laundry baskets
- small balls or paper wads (3 per person)
- painter's tape
- clock or cellphone timer
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place a laundry basket at each end of the room, like basketball hoops on a basketball court.
- About 3 to 5 feet in front of each basket, tape a throwing line that kids cannot cross when trying to make a shot into the basket.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play a Chaotic Game of Basketball

Say: **Today we read about an amazing message God gave to Peter: God is welcoming. Let's play a fun game to help us look at the difference between being welcoming and unwelcoming.**

- Divide into two roughly equal teams. You could play boys versus girls, dark shirts versus light shirts, or any other way kids will easily know who's on their team.
- Kids will be trying to shoot balls or paper wads into the opposing team's basket, while also trying to stop the other team from scoring in their own basket.
- When shooting a ball, the person shooting cannot cross the tape line.
- Have teams spread out, and then dump out all the balls or paper wads in the center of the room.
- Cue teams to begin playing.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- When a shot is scored, the ball or paper wad will remain in the basket.
- When all the balls or paper wads are in baskets, count to see who scored more goals. Then take the baskets to the center of the play area and dump them out again to start a new round.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you do to block the other team from scoring?**

Say: **You were just doing what you were supposed to in the game, but sometimes in life we block people by not being welcoming or accepting. Or maybe we've been the ones who've been blocked, excluded, or not welcomed. Feeling unwelcome feels pretty awful whether you're the giver or the receiver. Being welcome or welcoming is so much better!**

Ask: • **What do people do that makes you feel included?** Share your own example first.

Say: **God is welcoming. As we get to know God better, God makes our hearts more like his so that we're welcoming, too.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Closed Circle

Supplies

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Stand in a Tight Circle to Keep Someone Out

Say: **Today we're learning that God is welcoming. Sometimes to really understand what something means it helps to look at what it *doesn't* mean. Let's play a game that shows what it's like to leave someone out.**

- Have everyone stand shoulder to shoulder in a tight circle.
- Invite a willing person to be the first Outsider, who'll try to get into the circle from the outside. Have him or her move out of the circle, then have everyone else close the gap in the circle.
- The Outsider will try to find a way into the circle.
- If the Outsider is able to get into the circle, then the two people who created the gap can be the next Outsiders trying to get in. Then continue in the same way if one of the Outsiders is able to get into the circle.
- If the first Outsider can't get into the circle within a minute, invite someone else to be the new Outsider.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was it like to be the Outsider?**

• **What was it like to keep someone out of the circle?**

Say: **People of all ages sometimes get caught up in making groups that only certain people are allowed in, called cliques. Usually you have to be good at a certain thing, dress a certain way, or be "popular" to be accepted into a clique. Maybe you've been on the inside or the outside of a group like this.**

Ask: • **When have you felt left out, like an outsider?** Share an example of your own of a time you were left out or felt excluded by a clique.

Say: **God doesn't leave anyone out, ever. Everyone is welcome with God because he loves every person. And God doesn't make a clique with us; he makes a loving family. God is welcoming, and as we get to know God, our hearts become more like his and we can be welcoming, too.**



CRAFT

Welcome Signs

[20 min]

Supplies

- craft sticks (8 per child)
- Glue Dots
- pencils
- paint
- paintbrushes

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Welcome Signs

Show kids the sample craft you made. Set out the supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make welcome signs.

- Line up six craft sticks to be a sign.



- Use Glue Dots to stick two posts on your sign. Make sure each slat of the sign has a Glue Dot sticking it to each post.



- Flip over your sign so the posts are on the back, and paint a welcome sign. You may want to sketch it out in pencil first.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Tell about funny welcome signs or mats you've seen.**

• **Tell about the last person you welcomed to your home or school.**

• **Who do you need to be more welcoming to?**

Say: **God is welcoming, so we're welcoming.** You can stick these small welcome signs in grass or dirt near your front door. If you live in an apartment, you could put a small potted plant outside your door with the sign in it! When people come to visit your house, they'll feel welcomed by your sign. When they come inside, you can show them God's welcoming love.

Have kids take their welcome signs home and display them outside their homes to welcome visitors.



Supplies

- paper
- pens

Make a List

Say: **God is welcoming.** That means he accepts you just as you are, even when other people don't. **Let's think about all the things God welcomes about us.**

- Give kids each a piece of paper and a pen.
- Have kids make lists of things they worry other people won't like about them. (Let kids know no one will see their lists.)
- As kids hold their lists, they can thank God for welcoming them just as they are.
- After they pray, kids can throw their lists away to show that nothing on that list is a barrier to God's love for them.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you for welcoming us just as we are. Help us welcome others and reflect your heart. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.