

LESSON 5: PETER'S VISION OF ANIMALS

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Adventure

 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 draw their favorite foods, lower a sheet, and pray for other countries.

Supplies

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



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids practice being welcoming and pray.



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 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of oil into half the cups. Then pour about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of water into the remaining cups.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a game that combines basketball and soccer.

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 play a parachute game with stuffed animals.

Supplies

- parachute or extra-large flat bedsheet
- stuffed animals (1 or 2 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Spread out the parachute or sheet on the floor, and set the stuffed animals aside in a place you can access them easily when it's time for the game.



CRAFT

Kids make welcome flags.

Supplies

- light-colored craft felt (one 9x12-inch piece per child)
- washable ink pads
- rubber stamps
- foam stickers
- 3-ounce cups (without a bottom ridge)
- adhesive craft foam
- paper plates
- 12-inch dowels (1 per child)
- hot glue guns (teacher use only)

Easy Prep

- Make additional stamps by putting foam stickers on the bottom of cups.
- Make a large stamp that says "HI" by cutting the letters out of adhesive craft foam and sticking them on the bottom of a paper plate. (See below for an example.)
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids welcome one another in various scenarios.

Supplies

- Bible

**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'll learn that God is welcoming, and we can be welcoming, too. When we're welcoming, we let other people know we're glad they're here. In our Bible story, we'll hear how God used animals to show Peter to be welcoming. God actually brought animals down to Peter from the sky. That seems like a pretty silly place to see animals. Let's start today by talking about the silliest places we've seen animals.**

Share

- Share about a silly place *you've* seen an animal. Maybe you saw a cat climb a Christmas tree, a mountain goat standing on the side of a cliff, or a bird fly into your home.
- In small groups, have kids share about the silliest places *they've* seen animals. They might think it was funny to see a puppy on an airplane, a lizard in their house, or a bird land on someone's head.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Those are all pretty silly places for animals to go! And when God brought the animals down to Peter from the sky, he might've thought it was pretty surprising, too. But God did it for a reason—God used the animals to show Peter that he's welcoming and we can be welcoming, too. Let's look in the Bible to find out more about that.**

Pray, thanking God for being welcoming.

**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 labelled 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.

Keep kids in the "bad" group for the last one. Say: **In the Old Testament part of the Bible, God had made rules about what foods were okay to eat. The rules were to keep people safe. And those rules became so important to God's people at that time that they wouldn't even be friends with people who ate those foods. 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 labelled 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.

Say: **We often find reasons like this not to be friends with someone else. 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 God did in the Bible for two men named Cornelius and Peter. Both of them loved God, but they were from different groups of people. Peter was from the group of people who followed the rules about food in the Old Testament and Cornelius wasn't. Let's find out what happened.**

Lower a Sheet

While kids remain in their groups, collect their pictures and put them all in a sheet. 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 each take one step closer to the other group.

Say: **At Cornelius' house, listen to some things Peter said.**

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

Read Acts 10:28. Have kids each 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 talking about 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 hand 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 than 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!**



Practice Welcomes

Welcome Someone

Have kids sit in small groups. Say: **Today we found out that God is welcoming, so we're welcoming, too. We can be welcoming by saying "hi," by waving at someone across the street, by shaking hands or by giving a hug or high-five.**

Share a way you can be welcoming this week. Tell who you'll be welcoming to, and a simple way you'll do it. Maybe you'll smile and wave at a new neighbor, shake a new church attendee's hand and introduce yourself, or invite a friend into your home for a cup of coffee. Choose an action that goes along with the way you'll welcome, and then initiate that action with each child. For example, if you're going to wave at a neighbor, wave at each individual child and say his or her name.

Say: **You can practice being welcoming right now, too.**

In small groups, ask: • **How will you be welcoming this week?** Encourage kids to share who they'll welcome and how they'll do it and then initiate that action with each child in the group. Maybe they'll be welcoming by hugging a new student to school; so they'll hug each child in their small group.

Talk With God

Say: **Great job practicing being welcoming! God loves to welcome others and we can be welcoming, too. Let's thank God for welcoming us into a friendship with him and ask him to help us welcome others—whether they're new neighbors, our best friends, or even someone who's different from us.** Lead kids in a brief prayer, thanking God for being welcoming with us and asking him to help you all to be welcoming with others.

Thank the kids for coming to class and then say: **I hope you'll come back next week—you're always welcome here at church!**



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 Peter and Cornelius together as members of his family.**



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 Game Where Basketball Meets Soccer

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]

Animal Flip-Flop

Supplies

- parachute or extra-large flat bedsheet
- stuffed animals (1 or 2 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Spread out the parachute or sheet on the floor, and set the stuffed animals aside in a place you can access them easily when it's time for the game.

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](#).

Bounce Stuffed Animals on a Parachute

Say: **Today we read about how God gave Peter a cool message about how God is welcoming. God showed Peter animals on a giant sheet lowered out of the sky as a way to help Peter understand how to welcome everyone. Let's play a fun game with animals on a big sheet!**

- Have everyone gather around the parachute and pick it up together, holding it at the kids' waist level.
- Then toss all the stuffed animals onto the parachute.
- Have everyone wiggle the parachute to move all the animals into the center.
- Once the animals are in the center, everyone will pull up on the parachute at the count of three to make the animals bounce high into the air.
- Then everyone will work together to try to catch all the animals on the parachute. If any fall off, invite a nearby child to pick them up and put them back on the parachute.
- Repeat the wiggle, toss, and catch for as many fun rounds as time allows.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Say: **You did great welcoming all the animals in the game! You played with all of them as they bounced on the parachute, and if any fell off, you didn't leave them behind but you helped them get back on the parachute. That reminds me of how we can be welcoming friends with people, too. God is welcoming, and when we're friends with God, he'll make our hearts more and more like his so we're welcoming, too.**



CRAFT

Welcome Flag

[20 min]

Supplies

- light-colored craft felt (one 9x12-inch piece per child)
- washable ink pads
- rubber stamps
- foam stickers
- 3-ounce cups (without a bottom ridge)
- adhesive craft foam
- paper plates
- 12-inch dowels (1 per child)
- hot glue guns (teacher use only)

Easy Prep

- Make additional stamps by putting foam stickers on the bottom of cups.
- Make a large stamp that says “HI” by cutting the letters out of adhesive craft foam and sticking them on the bottom of a paper plate. (See below for an example.)
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Tip

- Use capital letters to spell “HI” on your stamp—that way kids won’t be able to stamp it upside down.

Explain

Say: **In our Bible story, we heard how God is welcoming, so we’re welcoming.**

Ask: • **What do you do to welcome someone who visits your home?**

Say: **Let’s make flags to welcome people who visit us!**

Make Welcome Flags

- Give each child a piece of craft felt.
- Let kids decorate their felt with stamps.
- Make sure each child gets a turn to use the “HI” stamp so kids’ flags have a welcoming message. Tell kids what the word says.

- As kids finish, adult or teen helpers can use hot glue guns to attach a 12-inch dowel as a flag pole. (Just make sure the word "HI" faces the right direction.)

Wave the Flags

Say: **Let's practice being welcoming with our welcome flags.**

Have adult or teen helpers take turns leaving the room for a few seconds. When they come back in, kids can wave their flags and say "Welcome!"



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome a Friend

Say: Today we found out how God is welcoming and that we can be welcoming, too. When we welcome someone, we smile and say “hi.” We also might invite the person to join us to play at the playground or share a treat. It’s great to be welcoming—and it can be easy to welcome a friend. Let’s practice welcoming friends right now.

Encourage kids to find three friends to welcome to church with a hug.

Ask: • What was it like to welcome a friend?

• What was it like to have a friend welcome *you* to church?

Say: It feels so good to welcome our friends.

Welcome Someone New

Say: Because God is welcoming, he likes us to welcome not just our friends. It’s easy to welcome them! But when a new child comes to church or school or we walk through the front doors of our church, we don’t always know the people saying hello to us. We can be welcoming to people like this, too. Let’s practice welcoming a new person.

Encourage kids to pretend they don’t know three other kids in the class and shake their hands and share their names. If kids *don’t* know all the other kids in your class, encourage them to welcome at least one child they don’t know by shaking hands and saying their names. It’s okay if there’s only one new child and all the kids welcome him or her—that will be a great big welcome for the new child!

Ask: • What was it like to introduce yourself to someone you didn’t know as well?

Say: It’s not as easy to welcome others when we don’t know them. But God loves when we welcome new friends to church or when we go with our families to welcome new people to our neighborhoods. We can make a new friend, and we make someone else feel good!

Welcome Someone Different

Say: What about when someone seems really different from us—does God want us to welcome that person? Yes! God is welcoming, and in the Bible God showed Peter that he could welcome someone who was very different from him. Let’s practice welcoming in a few more ways.

Have the boys welcome at least three girls with a high-five, and then have the girls welcome at least three boys with a smile and a wave.

Say: Boys and girls can welcome one another! In some ways we’re different—maybe we like to play different games—but there are lots of ways we’re alike. When boys and girls welcome each other, they learn they can be friends! We can welcome anyone, no matter how different they are.

Have kids welcome someone who is wearing a different color from them with a pat on the back.

Have kids welcome someone whose hair is a different length from theirs by giving a side-hug.

Ask: • What was it like to welcome and be welcomed by other kids who were maybe a little different from you?

Say: God is welcoming, so we can be welcoming, too. When we welcome someone different from us, it doesn’t mean that we have to start being like that person; it just means we show God’s love to that person.

Talk About It

Say: The Bible tells us how we can be welcoming. Read aloud Romans 15:7.

Say: Accept means we show love to everyone no matter what. God loves everyone, and he welcomes them into a friendship with him. And that’s a great thing because when we’re friends with God, he makes us more like him!

