



Family Lesson 80

Principle: Salvation is for all who believe.

Bible Character(s): Peter

Scripture Reference: Acts 10

1. Worship - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

2. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

Ask your child how they are different from others. Ask them if these things keep them from being friends with other people.

Last week, we learned about how God intervened in someone's life. In whose life did he intervene? (Saul.) What was Saul doing before God intervened in his life? (Saul was persecuting those who were followers of Jesus.) What did God do to Saul? (God blinded Saul.) What did God tell Saul to do? (He told Saul to go to Damascus.) What did Saul do? (Saul obeyed, and he made a choice to believe in Jesus and trust him with his life.) God has a plan for each of our lives. Like Saul, we can choose to trust him with our life and live to bring glory to him.

This week, we will continue our study in Acts. We will see what Peter learns as he shares his faith with others. Acts 10 begins with the Roman commander in the Italian Regiment named Cornelius. Even though he is not Jewish, Cornelius and his family are faithful and worship God. Cornelius has a vision where an angel of God tells him to send men to Joppa to bring back Peter. Cornelius obeys the angel's command and sends two men to Joppa.

Let's begin in Acts 10 [NLT].

Acts 10:9-17

⁹ The next day as Cornelius's messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, ¹⁰ and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. ¹² In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. ¹³ Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat them."

¹⁴ "No, Lord," Peter declared. "I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean."

¹⁵ But the voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean."

¹⁶ The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven.

¹⁷ Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean?

Jewish law states that certain foods cannot be eaten because they are considered unclean. If a Jew eats any of these foods, it is sin and that person is considered unclean. Gentiles, the people who are not Jewish, are seen as unclean because they eat these foods. Because of this, many Jews do not believe that the Gentiles can be saved. Peter obeys the Jewish laws. What do you think Peter's vision means? (Allow responses.) Do you think God is telling Peter that he can eat "unclean" foods? (Allow responses.) God wants Peter to know that salvation is for all people who believe, not just the Jews. He wants Peter to understand that it is the sin in our heart that makes us unclean, not the foods we eat. God is telling Peter that Jesus came to save both the Jews and the Gentiles. God wants

Peter to share the Good News about Jesus with everyone, not just the Jews.

Have your child think of (list out if you choose) **people that they unconsciously think are “unclean.”** (Ex. kids who are in trouble all of the time, kids who do things they think they would never do, the annoying kid in class, etc.)

These are all the people who seem “unclean” to us because they are different from us. We judge how they live and think we are better. Jesus taught that everyone can be saved. He came to earth, lived a perfect life, and was sacrificed on the cross as the payment of sin for all. Jesus came to provide salvation for everyone who believes in him. Jesus loves everyone, including the people we think cannot be saved by him. Salvation is for all who believe, not just for those who act a certain way.

The men sent by Cornelius find Peter and call for him. Peter is still thinking about the vision, but the Holy Spirit tells him to meet the men. Peter goes down to them, and they explain why they have come. They invite him to return with them, and he does. Notice that both Cornelius and Peter have been seeking God, and God gives both of them direction. Neither question God, but instead they immediately obey what he asks of them. When the men arrive in Caesarea, Cornelius greets Peter and explains that he has seen an angel from the Lord who had told him to send for Peter.

Let’s see how Peter responds to this.

Acts 10:34-36, 39-43

³⁴ Then Peter replied, “I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. ³⁵ In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. ³⁶ This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁹ “And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross,

⁴⁰ but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead. ⁴³ He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.”

Peter tells Cornelius and his friends about Jesus. He explains that anyone who believes in Jesus, who he was and what he did, would have their sins forgiven. Jesus offers salvation to everyone, not just the Jews.

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴ Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵ The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter asked, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?” ⁴⁸ So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.

Cornelius and his whole household are saved. Salvation is for all who believe and trust in Jesus as Savior. It does not matter whether a person is a Jew or Gentile, American or Arab, poor or wealthy, loud or quiet. Salvation is for all who believe.

Let’s look at who is rejected and what our role should be to bring them hope. With the list from earlier, add any names of people your child isn’t friends with. Talk about ways they can reach out to these people (talk to them, share with them,

play with them, bring them to church, pray for them, etc).

God made all people unique, different, and special. We need to figure out why we keep ourselves separate from others who may look, act, or appear different from us. We need to understand that this person is loved and accepted by Jesus. God desires for this person to believe in him and what he has done for them through Jesus on the cross. We need to be willing to share who Jesus is with people we may not normally spend time with, even if it means we are uncomfortable or others think we are strange. Consider how you may keep yourself separated from those around you. How can you reach out to those who are different? How can you share Jesus' love and kindness with them? (Allow responses.)

Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Thank God for providing a way for us to be redeemed by sending Jesus to die on the cross. Help us see those around us with God's eyes, so that we are open and willing to share Jesus with everyone.

Activity

“Rejected or Accepted” -the purpose is to see that Jesus accepts those who are rejected by others.

Supplies:

“Rejected or Accepted” poster (found on [GCK Resource Page](#))

Red and Black marker

Go through the list of passages and read them together as a family. Ask your child to figure out if the person in the passage was rejected, and why. Write the name or title of the person under “Rejected?” on the poster with the black marker. Next, discuss whether that same person was accepted by Jesus. If so, use the red marker and write “yes or no” under “Accepted” on the poster.

Text	Rejected?	Accepted (By Christ)?
Mt. 15:22-28	Gentile woman (Canaanite)	
Mark 1:40-41	Man with leprosy	
John 12:3-8	Mary	
Luke 19:2-10	Zacchaeus (tax collector)	
John 4:7-14	Samaritan woman	
John 9:1-7	Blind man	

How many of these people were rejected by others? (Allow responses.) **All of them! Many people didn't think these people should or could be saved. How many were accepted by Christ?** (Allow responses.) **All of them! Jesus accepted the people that others rejected because he loves everyone. He came to earth and died so that everyone could be forgiven of our sins by believing and trusting in him. Salvation is for all who believe!**

