

Missionaries
Lesson -9 Peter and the Gentiles

Memory Verse **Hand out Scriptures to read**

Acts 2:38-39, NKJV *Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.*

Peter at Pentecost

Acts 1:8 *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Mark 16:15 *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*

John 12:32 *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

***John 10:16** *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

Isaiah 49:6 *And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, That thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.*

The Conversion of Cornelius: Part 1

Many Good Centurions

Centurion - An officer in the Roman army, nominally in command of one hundred soldiers in a regiment of 500-1000. He had to be at least, 5'8" in height he was over thirty years old because it took 12 to 16 years of military service to be eligible for promotion to such a rank.

Matthew 8:5-11 *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,*

Matthew 8:10 *When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"*

***Matthew 27:54** *So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"*

Acts 27:3, The centurion Julius treated the apostle Paul with courtesy.

Also at the ninth hour - Luke 23:47 *Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.*

Thy prayer is heard

Cornelius means "horn" was a semi-proselyte to Judaism, accepting Jewish beliefs and practices but stopping short of circumcision.

His love to God led him to love men;

Hitherto none had been baptized into the Christian church but Jews, Samaritans, and those converts who had been circumcised and observed the ceremonial law.

Roman Soldiers represented the epitome of the uncircumcised pagan.

Acts 11:3 *"You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"*

Cornelius' was with the "Italian" Cohort. In Cornelius' day, about 65% of all Roman soldiers were Italian. That percentage was decreasing year by year. Most likely, this Cohort was entirely composed of soldiers recruited from Italy; thus, the nickname.

Believing in God as the Creator of heaven and earth, Cornelius revered Him, acknowledged His authority, and sought His counsel in all the affairs of life. He was faithful to Jehovah in his home life and in his official duties. He had erected the altar of God in his home, for he dared not attempt to carry out his plans or to bear his responsibilities without the help of God.—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 133.

He Prayed To God Always

1 Thessalonians 5:17 *pray without ceasing,*

Colossians 4:2 *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;*

Luke 18:1 (NKJV) *Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,*

- Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then doing of you world shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle.

A God Fearing Man

Acts 10:2 (NKJV) *a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.*

***Job 28:28** (NKJV) *'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.'* "

Psalms 27:1 *The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?*

Acts 9:31 Then had the churches *rest* throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the *fear of the Lord*, and in the *comfort* of the Holy Ghost, *were multiplied*.
Cornelius was a righteous and God-fearing man of conviction.

A Generous Man

He Loved God and man

Angels come to the ones who have a depth of commitment.

2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

The Conversion of Cornelius: Part 2

Acts 10:3–8 (NKJV) ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"
⁴ And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God."⁵ Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter.⁶ He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do."⁷ And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually.⁸ So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Mark 3:16 He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter);

Joppa = Beautiful Now known as Jaffa, 32 miles to Caesarea

Send for Simon, God uses people to reach people.

The only people who like change are "wet babies" - Mark Twain

Peter's Vision

Peter was Fasting And Praying

Acts 10:9–10 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,

Acts 10:28 ... God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

***Acts 10:34–35** (NKJV) Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

The Jerusalem Decree

Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

Galatians 5:2 (ESV) Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.

1 Corinthians 7:19 (NKJV) Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.

Acts 15:28–30 (NKJV) For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell. So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter.

To All People

Isaiah 60:3 (NKJV) The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Isaiah 11:10 (NKJV) "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV) For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

***Matthew 8:11–12** (NKJV) And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.¹² But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

God Uses People To Reach People

God could have given a Bible study to Cornelius through the angel.

He became the first fruit of the Gentile world to Christ. He and his family were baptized and admitted into the Christian church