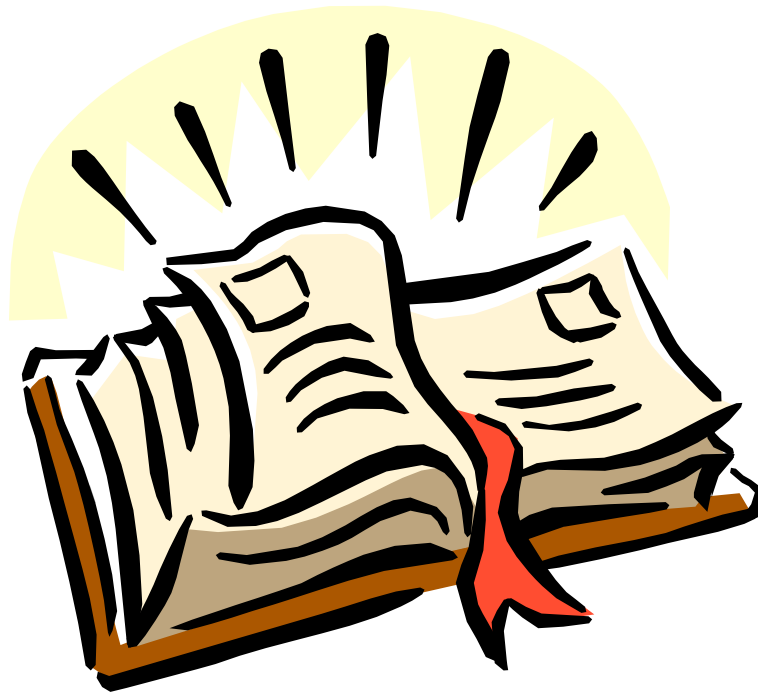


# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

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**LESSON TITLE: Peter and Cornelius**



**THEME: All Christians are in the family of God no matter how different we may be.**

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 10:1-8 and 24-48**

# Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week in Children's Church we learned about **Peter and Cornelius**. The theme was "**All Christians are in the family of God no matter how different we may be.**" In our story this week God taught Peter a very valuable lesson. God's salvation is open to everyone in the entire world. God wanted Peter and the early church to take the gospel into the world, not just keep it to themselves or only preach it in Israel.

Sometimes children may find it hard to accept others that are different than they are. The Bible teaches that when we become Christians that we become members of the same body. We are all brothers and sisters in the same family and God is our heavenly Father. How we need to accept everyone in Jesus, no matter who they are or how different they may be!

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 10:1-8; 24-28**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

# What's the Difference?

**Text: Acts 10:35** - "...but in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."

**Also read Acts 10:30-43**

God wants people to know about Him. But for many years His special people, Israel seemed like they were keeping God all to themselves. They did not share the knowledge of Him with anyone else. The other nations were known as *Gentile* nations. To be a *Gentile* was quite simply to be from a nation other than Israel. *Gentiles* were different from the Jews (Israelites) and most Jews wanted nothing to do with them. Most of us are *Gentiles*, unless we were born into a Jewish family. In the Bible we see that God chose the Jews to be a picture to the *Gentiles* of how wonderful it was to have a relationship with the Lord. He wanted Israel to show the world His goodness so they would be drawn to Him. But most of the Israelites did not want to have anything to do with the *Gentiles*. Instead of telling them about the Lord, they felt like they were better than the *Gentiles*.

When Jesus left to go back to heaven, He told His followers to go into the whole world and preach the gospel. God's message was not just for Israel. At first it was hard for the Jews to accept *Gentiles*. So God taught Peter to accept the *Gentiles* in an amazing dream. Before He gave Peter the dream, He spoke to the heart of a man named Cornelius. Cornelius was a *Gentile* and did not know who God was, but he loved Him very much. God spoke to this faithful man because He loved Him. He wants to get the gospel out to everyone. So He used Peter, a Jew from Israel to share the news of Jesus with Cornelius, a *Gentile*. The next thing we see is that Cornelius gets saved. This would forever change how Christians would reach out to others around the world.

Today's Bible reading is beautiful, because we can see how God chose two very different men, Peter and Cornelius, and brought them together to show how He loves the whole world. We may have never known about Jesus today if Peter had not shared the gospel with a man who was considered to be different from Him. God wants us to share Jesus with everyone we meet. Even if people are different from us, we need to share Jesus.

- Does God want people that are different from us to go to heaven?
- What does this story teach you about accepting others that are different?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Gentile:** a person not born with Jewish blood. Someone who is not a descendant of Abraham.

# Planting a Seed

(Part One)

**Text: Luke 13:8** - "but he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it.'"

**Also read Luke 13:6-9**

Jerry waited for his school bus and watched several people gather around the new kid. Dao had just moved from the city and he did not speak English very well. He was from another country. Some of the kids were teasing Dao, making fun of his speech and his clothing. Jerry felt that Dao really needed someone to stand up for him and be his friend. Jerry could almost hear Jesus telling him to help Dao. Jerry walked over towards the new boy. "Hey—my name is Jerry. I hope you will come over and sit by me. Maybe you can teach me to say hello in your language." Dao looked surprised, then happy. He said, "Sure, I would be glad to." The kids who were teasing Dao looked at each other and just left. They had tried to make fun of Jerry before when he tried to help others, but he never got mad.

Jerry and Dao's friendship began to grow. After a while Jerry started to tell Dao about Jesus. Dao was glad finally have a friend that would be nice to him. He thought that if Jesus helped Jerry to be so nice, maybe he would like to hear more about Him. Jerry was more than happy to talk about Jesus. He knew that Jesus wanted him to be an example to others.

Just because someone is different from us and speaks another language or dresses differently is no reason to treat them badly. Jesus wants us to show others how important they are and how much He loves them. We can be used by God to reach out to someone right where we are. Do not be afraid to help someone or share with them about Jesus just because they are different than we are. **Continued on Day Three...**

- Who gave Jerry the idea to help Dao?
- Why would Dao want to know more about Jesus after meeting Jerry?
- How would you tell Dao about Jesus?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Respect:** to be concerned how others are treated. To have regard for another person and how they are feeling.

Day Three

# Planting a Seed

(Part Two)

**Text:** Luke 8:21 - "He replied, 'My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice.'"

**Also read Luke 8:19-21**

**Continued from Day Two...** Jerry and Dao became great friends. The new kid, Dao, quickly became familiar with Jesus. Dao had never heard of Jesus before and he was very curious about Him. When he went to Jerry's house, he could see how much love Christians had for each other and for others. Dao was accepted and everyone cared about what was happening in his life. The more Dao saw Jesus, the more he wanted to know about Him. When Dao finally went to church with Jerry one day, he felt Jesus wanted him to ask Him into His heart. Jerry's parents were so happy. Dao finally felt at peace in his heart, and he felt like he had the biggest most loving family in the whole world.

We never know how Jesus can use us. Jerry was used by the Lord to bring Dao to Jesus. By coming to know Jesus, Dao entered into the family of God. Jesus spoke of His family in today's Bible reading. We see that the family of God is anyone who accepts Jesus as Lord. They do not have to have the same mother or father. We are all in the family of God when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. No matter how different we may be.

Maybe we can look around and find someone who is different than us. Maybe the Lord would have us to become their friend and share with them the love of Jesus. There are a lot of things that we can learn from people from other countries like different languages. Sometimes we can have a great missionary field right here in our own neighborhood. But remember they do not have to become like us to accept Jesus. We just need to remember to pray and ask the Lord to help us to always share the love of Jesus with everyone.

- Why did Dao want to know Jesus?
- Who is in the family of God?
- Can you think of someone that you would like to pray for?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Family:** a group of people sharing the same father or mother. God is the Father of all those in the Christian family.

Day Four

# The Christian Body is One

(Part 1)

**Text: 1 Cor 12:13** - "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

**Also read 1 Corinthians 12:12-18 & Galatians 6:10**

Sumara had just arrived in the United States from Iran with her family. She was very excited and very scared. She had heard it was okay to worship Jesus and serve the Lord openly in America, but all of her life she and her family had suffered terribly for their love of Jesus. The village where they had come from had chased her family and thrown rocks at them. They were not allowed to get medical attention when someone in her family was sick, because the doctor would not see them. Sumara's father often had a hard time finding work because no one wanted to hire a Christian.

But Sumara's family always stood firm for Jesus. The Lord blessed them with an opportunity for her father to come to the United States to study at a Bible College. He was going to learn everything he could about Jesus so he could share it with the people in their village. Sumara was proud of her father. Today was going to be the first day she would ever attend a church without being afraid of being arrested. She could not imagine praising Jesus in the open with other believers and she was afraid they would not like her.

Sumara and her family have suffered greatly for their faith and love of Jesus. In today's Bible reading, we see that the family of God is like parts of the body—a hand, a foot, and an eye. But all of the parts make up one whole body of Christ. Sumara may have been born in another country, but her heart worships Jesus. Because she has accepted Jesus into her heart, she is a Christian. It does not matter how she dresses, or what language she speaks. She is a member of the family of God and she is our sister. All Christians are part of the family of Christ, no matter how different we may be. **Continued on Day Five...**

- If you were Sumara, how would you feel?
- If you met Sumara, what would you say to her?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Suffering:** To endure pain or distress. Many believers suffer for their belief in Jesus.

Day Five

# The Christian Body is One

(Part Two)

**Text: 1 Cor 12:27** - "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually."

**Also read 1 Cor 12:17-31**

**Continued from Day Four...** Sumara walked into the church building that day and her eyes were wide. There were so many people! Her dad said they all loved Jesus, but Sumara still felt a little afraid. She did not know what she would say to these people. Sumara had just begun to learn English and she had a hard time saying the new words. But Sumara could sing and praise Jesus.

Her father took her to children's church where they met her teacher. When she met her new teacher, Sumara liked him right away. He had a big smile and seemed to be very nice. A girl named Charity came up to Sumara right away. Charity hugged the new girl and made her feel comfortable. When they sang praise songs, Sumara was able to sing "Jesus Loves Me". She used to sing that in her village. Charity asked Sumara if she would teach the song to her in her language. Her heart was so happy to sing aloud to the Lord. Everyone she met at church welcomed Sumara like a long-lost sister. She felt like her family got a lot bigger. Charity stood by her side and she promised to help the new girl with her English, if she would teach Charity her language.

Sumara and Charity had a lot of differences, but they each had the same Holy Spirit living inside of their hearts—the Spirit of Christ. They both loved Jesus and they cared about each other. As Christians, we should always be sensitive to new brothers and sisters in the Lord. If they feel uncomfortable, we should make them feel loved and honored. No matter how different we are, we are all a part of the family of Christ.

- Have you ever been afraid of meeting new people?
- How would you have made Sumara feel comfortable?
- Share something you learned this week about the family of God with your family.

## Kid's Prayer Time



Aren't we all so blessed? Take a moment to thank Jesus for where we live and the freedom we have to worship Him freely. Also ask God to show you in your heart other members of the family of Christ who might need your love and prayers.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**“All the prophets testify  
that everyone who  
believes in Jesus will be  
forgiven of their sins.”**

Third Grade and Above

**“To Him all the prophets  
witness that, through His  
name, whoever believes in  
Him will receive remission  
of sins.”**

**Acts 10:43**