

Lesson 3: Welcome

Today's Bible Story

One day, Peter went up to pray on the roof of the house where he was staying. Since lunch was not ready yet, he took a nap. That is when he had a vision. He saw the heavens open, and something like a large sheet came down held up by its corners. In it were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and birds. A voice said to him, "Peter, get up! Prepare these and eat."

But Peter said, "Lord, I can't do that! I've never eaten anything that is unclean and common." The voice spoke to him again, "When God makes something clean, do not call it common."

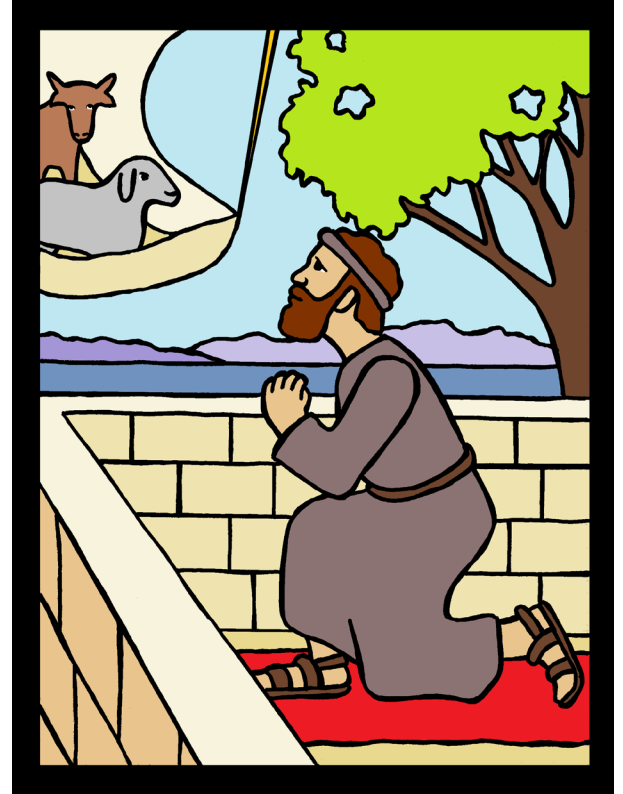
This happened three times before the sheet was suddenly taken back to heaven. Peter was still wondering what all this meant when some men arrived at his gate. The Holy Spirit said to him, "Three men are here looking for you. Hurry down and go with them. Don't worry, I sent them."

So Peter went down and said to the men, "I am the one you are looking for. Why have you come?"

"Our master, Cornelius, has sent us," they said. "He is a Roman, but he is a good man who worships God and is liked by the Jewish people. An angel of God told Cornelius to send for you, so he could hear what you have to say."

The next morning, Peter and some of his friends went to Caesarea where Cornelius was waiting for them. As Peter entered the house, many people were there, and Peter said to them, "You know that we Jews are not allowed to have anything to do with other people. But God has shown me that he doesn't think anyone is unclean or unfit."

Cornelius told Peter how God sent an angel, so that they would meet and become friends. Peter then said: "Now I am certain that God treats all people alike. God is pleased with everyone who worships him and does right, no matter what nation they come from."



From Acts 10:9-35

Bible Rhyme

It happened on one bright, clear day:

Peter went upstairs to pray.

In his sleep he saw a sight —

coming down, a sheet of white.

Inside were creatures good for meat
which God gave him to cook and eat.

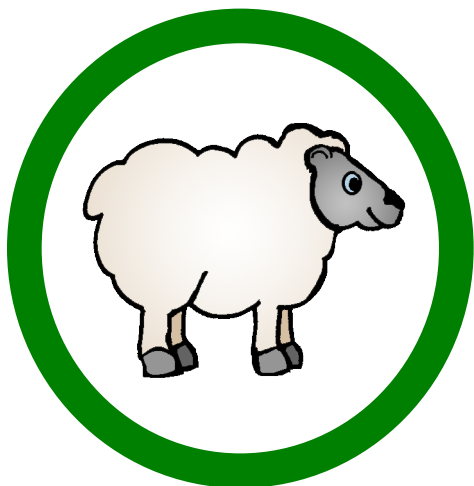
God made sure he understood:

"Whatever God makes clean is good."

So when some Romans came to see him,
Peter understood God's lesson.

For all who trust in his good name,

God welcomes everyone the same!



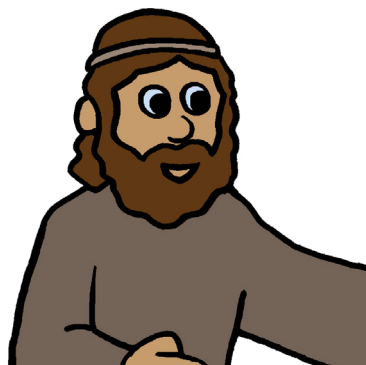
In Old Testament times, there were certain animals that Jewish people were allowed to eat, and other animals they were not.



*In today's lesson,
God told Peter that this would no longer be the rule.*

“What God has made _____, do not call _____.” (Acts 10:15)

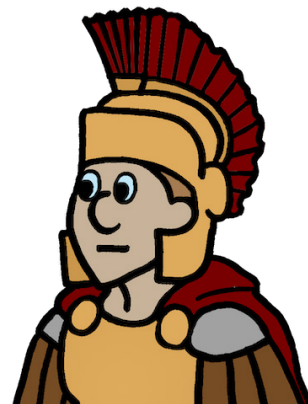
But the Bible shows that God was not just talking about different kinds of food, he was also talking about different kinds of people!



Jews
(like Peter)

God told Peter that it was not just the Jews who were able to have faith in Jesus, but the Gentiles (non-Jews) were welcome as well!

**In the New Testament:
Jews and Gentiles were able to be**



Gentiles
(like Cornelius)

**Match these words below
with the proper definitions:**

- a) Understand
- b) Partiality
- c) Nation
- d) Fear
- e) Acceptable

considered to be right or okay, something that is not rejected
in the Bible this word means to respect and obey
to come to learn the way things are and why
a group of people from a certain country or land
to play favorites, or to be unfair based on who you like better

Peter said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.” (Acts 10:34–35)