

Peter Visits Cornelius

Acts 10:1-44

Third- and fourth-graders have feelings that may be easily hurt, and they are sensitive to the criticism of others. They may be afraid to share their faith because of the scorn or ridicule that may result. Middle-elementary kids don't want to risk being cast out of their social group, so it might be difficult to convince them that sharing their faith is worth the effort. Use today's lesson to help kids understand that God wants us to tell everyone about Jesus—even when it's hard.



► Bible Point

Tell everyone about Jesus.

Key Verse

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will tell someone about a relationship with Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	We Four and No More <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a club and rules for entrance.	paper, pens	
2 Bible Exploration	Peter Visits Cornelius <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Play a game about favorites.	Bibles, masking tape	
	Telling the World <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a collage of different types of people to tell about Jesus.	construction paper, several pairs of scissors, glue sticks, markers, 1 copy per group of 4 kids of the “People” handout (at the end of this lesson)	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Tell All Nations <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out how they can share about Jesus with others.	Bibles, CD player, 1 coin for every 2 kids, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD, "Tell All Nations" poster 	
	Go! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Think of how they can share about Jesus.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 11 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



We Four and No More Supplies

paper
pens

1

GETTING STARTED

We Four and No More

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Have kids create groups of four by each finding three other people with whom they have something unique in common. Encourage them to find something in common that's likely to be different from the other groups. For example, have them find someone who was born outside your state, doesn't have a pet, ate eggs for breakfast this morning, or likes spinach.

Explain that each group is now a club. Have kids choose a President, a Scribe, and two Representatives for their club.

Give each club a piece of paper and a pen.

Say: **Every club has two things in common: a name and rules that qualify people to join. Representatives, your job is to help provide ideas for a name for your group and to help think of unique things your group has in common. Scribes, your job is to write down their ideas. Presidents, your job is to help make the final decision for a club name and to choose the three rules for entrance into your club.**

Give clubs a few minutes to come up with their names and rules.

Say: **I'm going to give you 15 seconds to tell as many people as you can which club you're in and why just the few of you can be a part of it. When I call "stop," come back to your club.**

Give the signal to go. After 15 seconds, have kids return to their clubs.

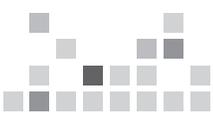
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you decide what your club would be all about?
- Did you find any other clubs you'd be able to join? Why or why not?
- Tell about a time you didn't fit in or didn't meet certain requirements.
- What rules are there to be a part of Jesus' family?

Say: **When the church began about 2,000 years ago, people persecuted those who believed in Jesus. That means they made fun of and hurt those people just because they believed in Jesus. So the people who were persecuted only talked to Jews—people who were like themselves—about Jesus.**



Ask:

- How is that like how we formed our clubs?
- What was wrong with people only telling others who were like themselves about Jesus?

Say: God wants us to ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.** Let's see what happened when Peter built up the courage to talk to a non-Jew about Jesus.

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Peter Visits Cornelius

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in one big circle.

Say: **When we hear about something we really want, most of us would probably try to figure out a way to get it. Well, that's exactly what an Italian centurion (or military official) in the Bible did. His name was Cornelius. Let's read about him.**

Have a willing child read aloud Acts 10:1-8.

Say: **There are many reasons God cared about how Cornelius felt. God loved Cornelius, and Cornelius loved God. Cornelius wanted to serve God with all his heart and soul. Besides, God doesn't play favorites; he had a bigger plan than for just the Jewish nation—he had all nations of people in mind.**

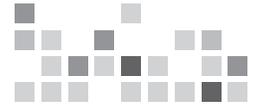
With masking tape, place an X in the center of the circle of kids. Have kids stand up in their circle.

Say: **The X you see in the middle of this circle represents Jesus. I am going to ask you some questions, and if you can answer yes to any question, you may take one small step toward the X. If you can get to the X, that means you are accepted by Jesus. Here are my questions.**

Ask:

- Are you a centurion in the Italian Regiment?
- Do you give money generously to the poor?
- Do you pray every single day?
- Are you Jewish?

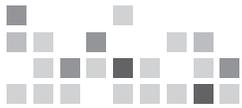
Have a willing child read aloud Acts 10:9-16. Say: **Okay, now I'm going to ask a couple more questions. If you answer yes to any of them, you have to take a step backward.**



Peter Visits Cornelius Supplies

Bibles
masking tape





Ask:

- Have you ever eaten a pig? This includes pork chops, sausage pizza, ham, bacon, bratwurst, and sausage patties.
- Have you ever eaten a bird that flies? This includes pheasant, duck, chicken, or turkey.
- Have you ever eaten lizard gizzard?

Say: These criteria might sound strange to you, but those were the rules Peter was used to. So you can imagine how confusing it was when he got this vision. Okay, I have one final question for you. If you can answer yes to this question, you can go directly to the X and be accepted by Jesus.

Ask:

- Do you breathe air?

Say: Everyone who breathes air is accepted by God. That means *everyone* is accepted by God. But Peter had always believed that God was for only the Jewish nation of people. God had to show Peter through a vision (or dream) that all the unclean animals were like the rest of the people in the world. He no longer had to stay away from them, because God wanted to make them clean, too. And he wanted all the Jews to begin to make friends with the Gentiles (everyone who was not born a Jew) and to tell them about Jesus, too. ► **GOD WANTS US TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS.** And that's just what Peter did. Have a willing child read aloud Acts 10:34-44.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it about Cornelius that made him different?
- What do you think about all the rules we had for who could be part of Jesus' family?
- Do you think God plays favorites? Explain.
- What do you think about Peter's vision?
- How was Peter's attitude like or unlike how we sometimes treat others?
- Why is it important to share Jesus with people who are different from us?

Say: Maybe we need to change our thoughts, just as Peter did. We need to realize that God wants us to ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS**, not just people we can talk to easily and that we know well. Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Let's see how we can go and tell all nations about Jesus, just as he commanded.

Telling the World

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids return to their groups of four from the starting activity. Give each group a “People” handout, scissors, a glue stick, construction paper, and markers. Have groups each choose a picture of one person they feel would be the easiest person to tell about Jesus and glue that picture in the center of their collages. Then have kids add other pictures around that person.

Say: **Discuss with your group members some similarities and differences among the people in your collage.** Allow time.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you determine which person would be the easiest to tell about Jesus?
- What are some of the similarities and differences between Peter and Cornelius?

Say: **We’ve seen how Peter went outside his comfort zone to share about Jesus with someone different from him. God wants us to step out of our comfort zones and ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS, too.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

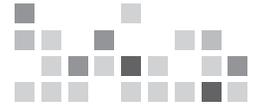
Tell All Nations

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play “Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) (track 18 on the CD). Lead the children in singing along with the CD.

 **The Bible says: “Therefore go And make disciples of all the nations” now. The Bible says: “Therefore go And make disciples of all the nations” now.**

Baptize them in the name of the Father, The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Repeat.)

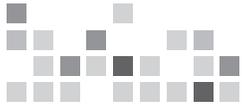


Telling the World Supplies

- construction paper
- several pairs of scissors
- glue sticks
- markers
- 1 copy per group of 4 kids of the “People” handout (at the end of this lesson)

Tell All Nations Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- 1 coin for every 2 children
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) (track 18)
- “Tell All Nations” poster



**Therefore go
And make disciples of all the nations now.
The Bible says: “Therefore go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.**

**Baptize them in the name of the Father,
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.
(Repeat.)**

**Therefore go
And make disciples of all the nations now.
The Bible says: “Therefore go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.
(Repeat.)**

“Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Have kids split into pairs. Make sure each pair has a Bible, and then set the “Tell All Nations” poster on the floor and give each pair a coin.

Say: Let’s open our Bibles to the Key Verse, Matthew 28:19-20, and read the important command Jesus gave his disciples and us from the song we just sang.

Have a willing child read aloud Matthew 28:19-20: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Ask:

- **What do you think *nations* means in this passage?**

Say: A nation can be defined as a group of people who come from the same place or have something in common.

Ask:

- **What do you think it means to “make disciples of all nations”?**
- **Why is it important to follow God?**
- **Why is it good to know that Jesus is always with us as we tell others about him?**

Say: We’re going to play a game that will help us understand how we can go tell every nation about Jesus. Each pair will take turns tossing a coin onto the poster. Whichever picture your coin lands on, your pair will act out a situation where one person in the picture is telling the other person or people about Jesus.

Have everyone take a turn tossing the coin. When pairs know their situations, allow time for them to act out the situation within the pair. If time allows, have pairs toss a coin again and switch roles, so that both partners get to practice telling the other about Jesus. Then

gather the kids back together.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's the most comfortable way to tell others about Jesus?
- When have you been uncomfortable telling others about Jesus?
- How can you seek out situations to talk about Jesus?

Say: Jesus commanded us to tell others about him, even if it's uncomfortable. Peter did it, and we can ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS, too.**

Go!

What You'll Do

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and have kids turn to the "Go!" activity.

Say: In your Bible Truth Sleuth pages, you will find a collage of people from all parts of the world. Select a picture of a person who you think is most like you, and circle that picture. Then in the area that says "like me," write how you would tell that person about Jesus.

Then select a picture of a person you think is least like you, and circle that picture. In the area that says "not like me," write how you could tell that person about Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What made you pick the person you did?
- What might you tell someone who is a lot like you about Jesus?
- How can we get more comfortable with people who aren't like us?
- What could you tell someone who's very different from you about Jesus?

Say: It's not always easy to talk about God to people who are like us—much less people who aren't like us. But God wants everyone to hear about him. Peter obeyed God and told someone new about God. We can ► **TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS, too.**



Go! Supplies

.....
Bible Truth Sleuth
pens

Go! Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the Lesson 11
pages from each Bible
Truth Sleuth student
book.



Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth
pens

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS this week.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Write out your faith story. Doing this will help you be prepared if someone asks about it as you're telling them about Jesus.**
- **Find someone in your school who is different from you, and tell that person about Jesus.**
- **Talk with a family member about what you each know about Jesus.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Peter might have been uncomfortable going to Cornelius' house. But Peter knew that God wanted him to ► TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS. Let's do the same this week as we follow through with our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and how they can tell everyone about Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Close in prayer. Have kids quietly think of someone they know but aren't like, and pray that God would give them strength to talk to that person.

Lyrics 

Go and Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)

The Bible says: “Therefore go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.
The Bible says: “Therefore go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.

Baptize them in the name of the Father,
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.
(Repeat.)

Therefore go
And make disciples of all the nations now.
The Bible says: “Therefore go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.

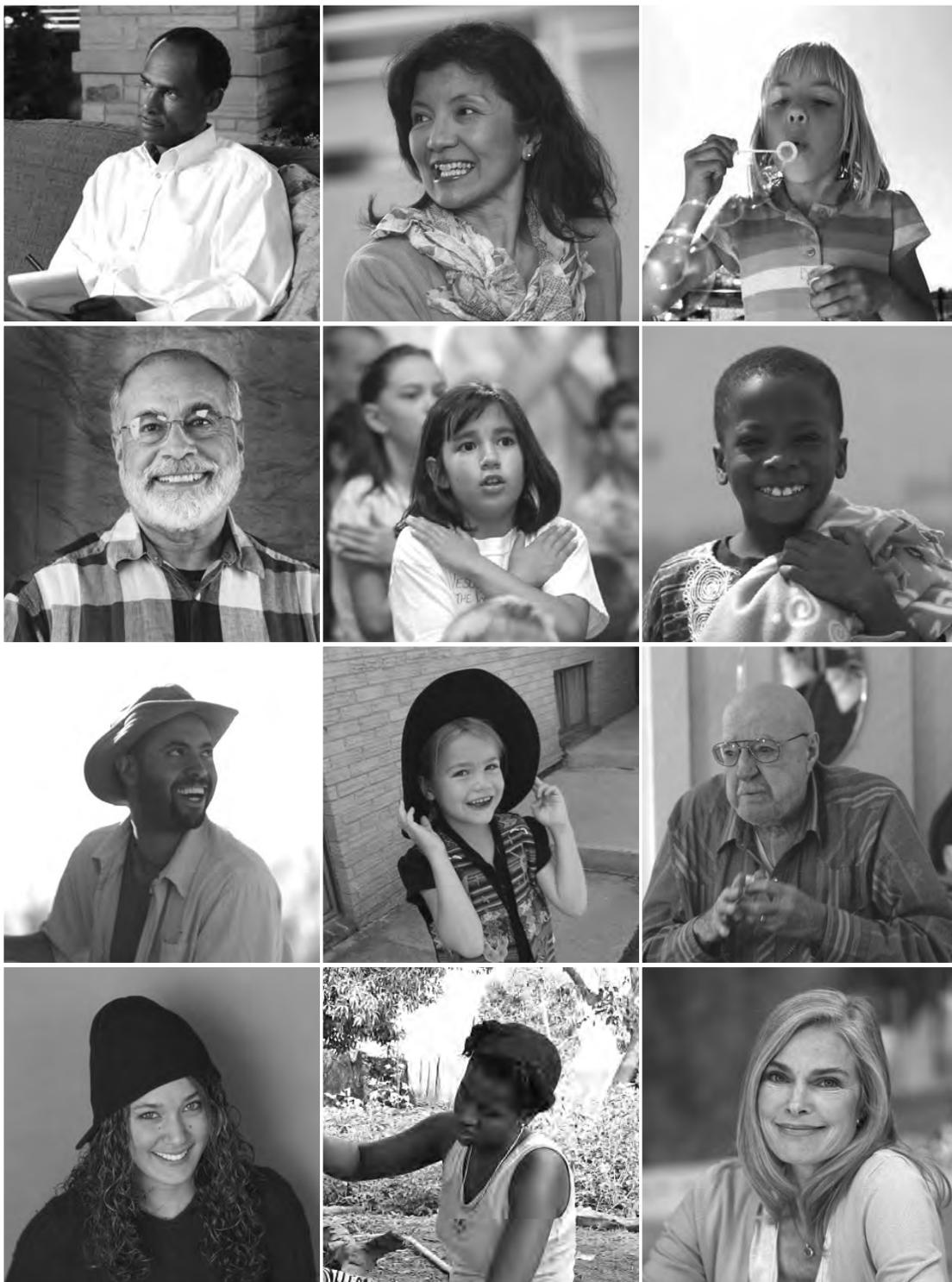
Baptize them in the name of the Father,
The name of the Son and the Holy Spirit.
(Repeat.)

Therefore go
And make disciples of all the nations now.
The Bible says: “Therefore go
And make disciples of all the nations” now.
(Repeat.)

“Go and Make Disciples” (Matthew 28:19) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

 **OK**
TO COPY

People



OK
TO COPY

Photography by 41st Dawn.