

### **BIG IDEA**

We can love  
like Jesus does.

### **BIBLE**

**Peter Meets with Cornelius:**  
Acts 10:1–8; 11:1–18

## **ABOUT THIS WEEK**

One of the most fun parts of solving a puzzle is the feeling of joy we get whenever we overcome a difficult challenge. This week, we'll learn about how God spoke to Cornelius and Peter to show that everyone is welcome to follow Jesus. Their story helps us see how God helps us overcome our challenges so that **we can love like Jesus does.**

## **WELCOME TIME**

### **ACTIVITY | Guess The Animal**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, choose a kid to go to the front of the room and pretend to be an animal through actions and sounds. Feel free to give them suggestions (pig, cow, chicken, sheep, fish). Everyone else has to guess what kind of animal they are. Play several rounds.
- In today's Bible story, Peter gets a message from God about all kinds of animals. We'll find out what God was teaching Peter and what God is teaching us, too.

### **ACTIVITY | Come To The Circle**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, mark a circle on the ground using painter's tape and stand in the middle of it while sending kids to stand along the walls or in the periphery of your space. Call out different descriptors of kids and invite them to join you in the circle. For example, "Come to the circle if... you have a sister" (you have a dog, your favorite color is yellow, you have a black car, you like to draw, and so on). Keep calling out statements until everyone is in the circle.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Offer toddlers play people figures and a play house (or cardboard box decorated to look like a play house). As they play, you can retell the Bible story and show the toddlers how the people go in the house and out of the house.
- Wow! We are all in the circle! God made all of us very different, so our homes look different, and we each like different things.
- But when Jesus was on earth, he showed us that no matter how different we are, we are all loved by God. That's something Peter learned in today's Bible story.

## **STORY TIME**

### **SCRIPTURE | Acts 10:1–8; 11:1–18 (Peter Meets with Cornelius)**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible

storybook, or using the talking points provided below.

- The Bible is a lot like a puzzle. Each Bible story is like a puzzle piece. The more we learn from the Bible, the more we can know about God.
- In today's Bible story puzzle piece, God brings two very different people together, Cornelius and Peter, to show that all are welcome to believe and follow Jesus.
- There was a man named Cornelius who was a centurion. It meant he was in charge of a lot of soldiers. He and his family loved God very much.
- One day, an angel of God appeared to Cornelius and told him to go find Peter.
  - Peter was a follower of Jesus. After Jesus went up to heaven, he taught people about Jesus and continued the work Jesus started. Last time we heard the story of how he prayed for a woman named Tabitha, and she came back from the dead!
  - But Peter didn't understand that he was meant to tell everybody about Jesus, not just those who looked like him.
- One day, Peter had a vision from God.
  - In the vision, a large sheet came down from heaven containing all kinds of animals. Then, a voice told him that he could eat any of those animals.
  - **What kinds of animals do you think were there?**
  - Peter was shocked. His whole life, there were certain kinds of meat and foods he didn't eat. That's just the way it had always been among his people for hundreds and hundreds of years.
  - But God was allowing Peter to change things up. Because of Jesus, things didn't have to stay the same.
- So Cornelius and Peter finally met. Peter finally understood what his vision meant. God wanted Peter to change the way he saw people, not just animals. Peter could welcome people who were not like him to follow Jesus, too. People like Cornelius!
  - Yes, people like me and you, too.
  - **Everyone say your name out loud at the count of three. One, two, three.**
- Peter remembered how Jesus loved everyone when he was on the earth. That's something we should also remember. The best way to tell people about Jesus is to love them like he does.

### BIG IDEA | We can love like Jesus does.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the puzzle pieces you used in previous weeks. Write each word of the Big Idea on strips of painter's tape, and attach these to the pieces before hiding them. You may want to have a sample to show kids what they're looking for. Once all the pieces are found, bring them together and fit them together. Then read the Big Idea aloud. Have the kids repeat after you once, then say it a few times using the motions below.
- Peter was obeying God by telling people the good news about Jesus. He followed Jesus and prayed for others. But there was more he could do ... he could love everybody, not just some people.
- Our Big Idea tells us what's next after we follow Jesus and pray for others.
  - **We can** (Flex both arms.)
  - **love like** (Give yourself a hug.)
  - **Jesus does.** (Point up.)

### VIDEO | What's Next?, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

### ACTIVITY | Give Love Away

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, give everyone a [heart sticker](#) and write their names on it with a permanent marker. Have one kid start by putting their heart on a friend. That friend now has to put their sticker on

someone else. Keep going until everyone wears a heart with someone else's name. You can also make this more active by playing a "tag" game, having the person that's "it" tag someone with a sticker. Then that person becomes "it." Keep playing until everyone has a heart.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers may not want to share any heart stickers but will have lots of fun putting them on you and themselves. Make sure you have enough for toddlers to have fun adorning themselves—and you—with stickers.

- Jesus has the biggest heart of all. He loves everyone! **We can love like Jesus does** by caring for everybody with all our hearts without leaving anybody out.

## PRAYER

- Jesus, you make sure nobody is left out, and everybody is loved. Help me to love like you do. Amen.

## SHARING TIME

### SNACK | Sheet Of Animals

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Serve animal crackers in [paper food boats](#) to help kids remember the Bible story.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** When it comes to working with toddlers and their families, showing up early is key. Plan your ministry day early, setting out supplies and snacks well in advance so that you aren't rushed and are ready to receive toddlers when they arrive.
- In Peter's vision, God showed him that he could eat different kinds of meat that he thought he wasn't allowed to eat. Through this vision, Peter learned that God wanted him to love everybody.
- **If a sheet came down from heaven with all your favorite foods, what would be on it?**

### ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the [sensory bottles](#) you made in Week 1 using [puzzle-shaped confetti](#) and oil or sand and jigsaw puzzle pieces or [plastic puzzle pieces](#) to help kids calm down and focus on reviewing the Bible story together. You can allow kids to pass the bottle around and shake it as they answer the questions together.
- **What was the name of the centurion who loved God?** Cornelius.
- **What message did the angel give to Cornelius?** To go find Peter.
- **What was in the vision Peter had?** A sheet filled with all kinds of animals.
- **Name people you love.**
- **Who can we love like?** Jesus! We can love like Jesus does.

### ACTIVITY | Jesus Loves Everyone

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this craft, follow a tutorial [like this](#) for each kid to make their own people garland. If you are pressed for time, consider folding these papers in advance and marking the places where kids will need to cut. Unfold the garland to reveal four connected circles. Have kids draw a face on each circle and color using Colors of the World [Crayons](#). Alternatively, you can provide [large circular labels](#) for kids to draw on and attach them together on a separate piece of paper. See a worked example [here](#).
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide precut people cutouts [like these](#) for toddlers to glue on a large sheet of paper.
- It doesn't matter how tall you are, how fast you run, what color your hair is, your favorite food, or what language you speak at home. Jesus welcomes everyone to follow him, so **we can love like Jesus does**.

### MEMORY VERSE | Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words and the Scripture reference

to the tune of "[Brahms' Lullaby](#)." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.

- "In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

## PLAY TIME

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

### ACTIVITY | Thumbprint Hearts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play activity, you'll need washable ink pads in various colors, cardstock paper, and wet wipes. Precut the cardstock paper into heart shapes. Have kids create [thumbprint hearts](#) all over their paper. Recite the Big Idea together when they're done. Alternatively, create a large heart out of poster paper and invite kids to add a single thumbprint heart and write their name next to it. You can decorate your space with this poster and add new hearts when you have visitors.

### ACTIVITY | Puzzle Hunt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play activity, fill a bin with rice and hide pieces of a puzzle inside of it. Make sure it's a simple puzzle that preschoolers can solve. Have kids find all the pieces and put the puzzle together. Alternatively, you can use smaller jigsaw puzzle pieces, and instead of solving a puzzle, they can count how many pieces they found.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide [wooden peg puzzles](#) for toddlers to match instead of loose jigsaw puzzle pieces.