



LESSON 80

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Salvation is for all who believe.

Bible Character(s): Peter

Scripture Reference: Acts 10



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read through Acts 10. During this

time in the early church, there was a huge separation between the Jews and the Gentiles. Peter's vision and decision to obey God impacted his entire life. He knew that salvation was for all who believed in Jesus as Savior, not just the Jews. The conversion of Cornelius and his household is significant in the mission to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles. Peter's obedience to God placed him right in the center of this mission. Peter lived his life to bring glory to God by telling others about Jesus. In what ways are you like Peter? How are you separated from others, like the Jews and Gentiles were? Are you obedient to God's call for you to share the Good News about Jesus with others? Do you live with the purpose to glorify God by telling others that salvation is for them if they believe? Spend a few minutes in prayer, thinking about the people in your life who are not followers of Christ. Ask God to open your eyes to the need of the Gospel in your community, and the obedience to His will for you to spread His kingdom.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Ask the campers . . . how they are different from others. Make a list of these things. Ask them if these things keep them from being friends with other people.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting

them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will discuss how Jesus accepts us all, even those who are rejected by others. Salvation is for all who believe.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What were the staff members doing? (Adding animals to the camp menu that were considered “clean” animals.) **What did they learn?** (Nothing God created is unclean. Jesus paid for all sin, and salvation is for everyone who believes.)

Last week we learned about how God intervened in someone’s life. In whose life did He intervene? (Saul.) **What was Saul doing before God intervened in his life?** (Saul was persecuting those who were followers of Jesus.) **What did God do to Saul?** (God blinded Saul.) **What did God tell Saul to do?** (He told Saul to go to Damascus.) **What did Saul do?** (Saul obeyed, and he made a choice to believe in Jesus and trust Him with his life.) **God has a plan for each of our lives. Like Saul, we can choose to trust Him with our life and live to bring glory to Him.**

This week, we will continue our study in Acts. We will see what Peter learned as he shared his faith with others. Acts 10 begins with the Roman commander in the Italian Regiment, named Cornelius. Even though he was not Jewish, Cornelius and his family were faithful and worshiped God. Cornelius had a vision where an angel of God told him to send men to Joppa to bring back Peter. Cornelius obeyed the angel’s command and sent two men to Joppa.

Let’s begin in Acts 10 [NLT].

Acts 10:9-17

⁹ The next day as Cornelius’s messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, ¹⁰ and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. ¹² In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. ¹³ Then a voice said to him, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat them.”

¹⁴ “No, Lord,” Peter declared. “I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean.”

¹⁵ But the voice spoke again: “Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.” ¹⁶ The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven.

¹⁷ Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean?

Clean or Unclean?



The purpose is to remember the laws of the Old Testament and how they shaped Peter's thinking.

Supplies:

White sheet or pillowcase (1 per bin)

Animal cutouts (1 set per bin)

Lay the animal cutouts on the table, face up. Have the campers take turns choosing the "unclean" animals (verse 12) put them on the sheet.

**** Teachers, please gather the complete set of animal cutouts and secure with a binder clip for the next session and destocking/inventory.**

Clean animals: chicken, fish, cow, grasshopper

Unclean animals: pig, mouse, rabbit, lobster, snake, turtle

Tie It Together



Jewish law stated that certain foods could not be eaten because they were considered unclean. If a Jew ate any of these foods, it would be sin and that person would be considered unclean. Gentiles, the people who were not Jewish, were seen as unclean because they ate these foods. Because of this, many Jews did not believe that the Gentiles could be saved. Peter obeyed the Jewish laws. What do you think Peter's vision meant? (Allow responses.) Do you think God was telling Peter that he could eat "unclean" foods? (Allow responses.) God wanted Peter to know that salvation is for all people who believe, not just the Jews. He wanted Peter to understand that it is the sin in our heart that makes us unclean, not the foods we eat. God was telling Peter that Jesus came to save both the Jews and the Gentiles. God wants Peter to share the Good News about Jesus with everyone, not just the Jews.

Are Others Unclean?



The purpose is to determine who we see as unclean.

Supplies:

White board

Have the campers list out people that they unconsciously think are "unclean." (Ex. kids who are in trouble all of the time, kids that do things they think they would never do, the annoying kid in class, etc.) Leave the names on the board for an activity later in the lesson.

Tie It Together



These are all the people who seem “unclean” to us because they are different from us. Why do we see them as unclean? (Allow responses.) We judge how they live, and think we are better. Do you truly believe that they can be forgiven and redeemed? (Allow responses.) Jesus taught that everyone can be saved. He came to earth, lived a perfect life, and was sacrificed on the cross as the payment of sin for all. Jesus came to provide salvation for everyone who believes in Him. Jesus loves everyone, including the people we think cannot be saved by Him. Salvation is for all who believe, not just for those who act a certain way. How can we help the people we see as “unclean” know that Jesus loves them and offers them redemption? (Allow responses.)

The men sent by Cornelius found Peter and called for him. Peter was still thinking about the vision, but the Holy Spirit told him to meet the men. Peter went down to them, and they explained why they had come. They invited him to return with them, and he did. Notice that both Cornelius and Peter had been seeking God, and God gave both of them direction. Neither questioned God, but instead immediately obeyed what He asked of them. When the men arrived in Caesarea, Cornelius greeted Peter and explained that he had seen an angel from the Lord who had told him to send for Peter.

Let’s see how Peter responds to this.

Acts 10:34–36, 39–43

34 Then Peter replied, “I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. 35 In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. 36 This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

39 “And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, 40 but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear, 41 not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead. 43 He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.”

Peter told Cornelius and his friends about Jesus. He explained that anyone who believes in Jesus, who He was and what He did, would have their sins forgiven. Jesus offers salvation to everyone, not just the Jews.

Acts 10:44–48

44 Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. 45 The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter asked, 47 “Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?” 48 So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.

Salvation is for all who believe and trust in Jesus as Savior. It does not matter whether a person is a Jew or Gentile, American or Arab, poor or wealthy, loud or quiet. Salvation is for all who believe.

Rejected or Accepted



The purpose is to see that Jesus accepts those who are rejected by others.

Supplies:

“Rejected or Accepted” poster (1 per session or 1 per bin if laminated)

Black marker – dry erase, if post is laminated (1 per bin)

Red marker – dry erase, if post is laminated (1 per bin)

Split the class into groups of 2, and give each group a passage to read (Some groups may need to be given two passages). Tell them to read the passage together. After a few minutes, ask each group the following questions:

- 1) Who are the characters in the passage?
- 2) Who was rejected?
- 3) How did Jesus respond?

For each passage, write the name or title of the person under “Rejected?” on the poster. Discuss why that person was rejected by others. Then discuss whether that same person was accepted by Jesus. If so, use the red marker and write “yes” or “no” under “Accepted By Christ?” on the poster.

Text

Matthew 15:22-28

Mark 1:40-41

John 12:3-8

Luke 19:2-10

John 4:7-14

John 9:1-7

Rejected?

Gentile woman (Canaanite)

Man with leprosy

Mary

Zacchaeus (tax collector)

Samaritan woman

Blind man

Accepted (By Christ)?

Tie It Together



How many of these people were rejected by others? (Allow responses.) All of them! Many people did not think these people should or could be saved. How many were accepted by Christ? (Allow responses.) All of them! Jesus accepted the people that others rejected because He loves everyone. He came to earth and died so that everyone could be forgiven of our sins, by believing and trusting in Him. Salvation is for all who believe!

Reaching the Rejected



The purpose of this activity is to look at who is rejected and what our role should be to bring them hope.

Supplies:

White board with list of names from earlier

Have the campers add more names to the list from the “Are Others Unclean?” activity. Help them think about people they aren’t friends with. Talk about ways they can reach out to these people (talk to them, share with them, play with them, bring them to church, pray for them, etc). You can even give each camper a blank piece of paper and have them write down the names and draw pictures or write downs some of the ideas the class comes up with.

Tie It Together



God made all people unique, different, and special. We need to figure out why we keep ourselves separate from others who may look, act or appear different to us. We need to understand that this person is loved and accepted by Jesus. God desires for this person to believe in Him and what He has done for them through Jesus on the cross. We need to be willing to share who Jesus is with people we may not normally spend time with, even if it means we are uncomfortable or others think we are strange. Consider how you may keep yourself separated from those around you. How can you reach out to those who are different? How can you share Jesus’ love and kindness with them? (Allow responses.)

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for providing a way for us to be redeemed by sending Jesus to die on the cross. Help us see those around us with God’s eyes, so that we are open and willing to share Jesus with everyone.



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