

WEEK 1: Cornelius

Big Idea: Following Jesus starts with hearing the good news.

HANGOUT

1. Lead the kids to do a variety of actions, such as touching toes, marching on the spot, jumping jacks, push-ups, arm swings, patting head while rubbing stomach, etc. Demonstrate each movement so they know what to do. Invite everyone who wants to lead the group to take a turn. To wrap up, explain that the kids can follow Jesus by learning from his example and by listening to what he says, just like they followed the leader's actions.
2. Introduce the Big Idea: **Following Jesus starts with hearing the good news.**
3. Discuss: How would you explain the good news about Jesus to a friend? (e.g., Jesus came to show us God's love, save us from sin, and share in his peace)

Watch this week's video on the Kids and Youth playlist at youtube.com/themeetinghouse

HEAR

4. Let the kids know that in today's God Story, Peter has an amazing and surprising vision from God. He shares this good news with some Gentiles (non-Jewish people). Remind everyone that Jesus instructed his disciples to share the good news about himself with all nations (see Mark 16:15). We get to see how that happened in this story. Ask everyone to listen carefully to find out how God started to take away the things that separated the Jewish people from other nations.
5. Look up and read about Cornelius and Peter in Acts 10. If you have confident readers in your group, invite a few of them to take turns reading the passage out loud.
6. Discuss:
 - What do we learn about Cornelius in verses 1-2? (he was a Roman army officer and a religious man; he gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God)
 - What did God receive as an offering from Cornelius? (his prayers and gifts to the poor)
 - Why was Peter on the roof at Joppa in verse 9? (to pray)
 - What did he see in his vision? (what looked like a large sheet of animals)
 - What did God tell Peter to do in verse 13? (to eat them)
7. Explain that God was taking away the strict rules for what Jewish people could eat so that they could hang out and share food and the good news with people of every nation!
8. Discuss:
 - According to verse 28, why was it okay for Peter to go into Cornelius's house? (God showed him it was okay for Jewish and non-Jewish people to be together now)
 - What's the good news message that Peter shared with Cornelius in verses 35-36? (through Jesus, God accepts everyone who fears him and does what is right)
 - How did Cornelius and his household respond to the good news? (they followed Jesus)

HUDDLE

9. Remind the kids that **following Jesus starts with hearing the good news.**
10. Discuss: Who's a good example of someone who follows Jesus? What is it about them that makes you feel this way?
11. Provide paper and drawing supplies for everyone in your group. Encourage the kids to write a letter to a Jesus-follower who they think is a good example. If they need help, prompt them to write something like: "Dear [name], You are such a great example for me of what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus because [write or draw reasons]." Help the kids with writing as needed. If possible, send the letters or take pictures and send them via email.
12. Pray and thank God for these wonderful friends and family members who are such good examples of following Jesus.

Big Idea: Following Jesus starts with hearing the good news.
Finish the word bubble by writing the Good News about Jesus!

The good news about Jesus is...

