



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

TRUE STORY

BIG IDEA

Jesus loves everyone.

THE BIBLE

Peter and Cornelius: Acts 10:1-38
(1 Samuel 16:7; Genesis 1:27; James 2:1-4)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Pocket Scavenger Hunt
- **ACTIVITY** | Animal Toss
- **QUESTION** | Favorite and Least Favorite Animals
- **BIBLE STORY** | Acts 10:1-38
- **THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus loves everyone.
- **ACTIVITY** | Four Corners
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Different Colored Eggs (or Apples)
- **SCRIPTURE** | 1 Samuel 16:7
- **ACTIVITY** | Favorite Things
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Blending Colors
- **SCRIPTURE** | Genesis 1:27
- **PRAYER** | Paper Person Chain
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Psalm 119:105; Galatians 5:22

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - How were Peter and Cornelius different?
 - What did they have in common?
 - What was the big lesson God taught Peter?
 - Is it easier to love people who are like you or who are different?
 - What are some ways we are different from each other? How are we alike?
 - How do you think God wants you to treat people who are different from you?
- **SCRIPTURE** | James 2:1-4
- **ACTIVITY** | Role Play
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Psalm 119:105; Galatians 5:22



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

TRUE STORY

BIG IDEA

Jesus loves everyone.

THE BIBLE

Peter and Cornelius: Acts 10:1-38
(1 Samuel 16:7; Genesis 1:27; James 2:1-4)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Pocket Scavenger Hunt

- Welcome! We're on Week 2 of our series that's all about adventures and exploring. It's called True Story. Last week, we talked about a man named Saul, and how a simple hike turned into a great adventure!
- One of the things adventurers have to do is pack everything they think they will need while on an adventure. Let's see what we have with us today!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the Pocket Scavenger Hunt printable. Split the kids into groups of five to ten and call out each item from the list. The first person to run up to you with that item wins.*
- Some of you packed really well for church today! We're getting ready for an adventure today because we're going to hear a great story from the Bible!

ACTIVITY | Animal Toss

- We're learning about the true stories of the first Christians from the book of Acts. In our story today, we'll learn about someone named Peter and a vision he had that involved animals and a sheet. Let's see how many animals you can toss into your team's bucket from your sheet.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the group into two teams (or more, if you have a large group). Give each team a sheet, a bucket, and some stuffed animals. Set each team's bucket four feet from their sheet, then have them all hold onto the sheet and put the stuffed animals on it one at a time. They will try to bounce the animals into their team's bucket. They can only touch the sheet. The first team to get three stuffed animals into their team's bucket wins.*

QUESTION | Favorite and Least Favorite Animals

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask kids to name their favorite animals. Then ask kids to name any animals or creatures they would stay away from no matter what.
- We're going to hear about a dream or a vision involving different animals, but it had a much bigger meaning that didn't have anything to do with animals at all. Let's hear a story from the Bible to see what it was all about!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

BIBLE STORY | Acts 10:1-38

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- God gave visions to two people in this story. Cornelius had the first vision. **What was God telling Cornelius to do in his vision?** He told him to send for Peter.
- **What happened in Peter's vision?** He saw a sheet lowered with animals, reptiles, and birds and was told to eat. It sounds like a crazy dream!
- **Have you ever had a crazy dream that didn't make sense?** Peter's dream wasn't just any dream — it was a special vision from God. God was using this vision to teach Peter something very important. Let's try to figure out what it meant.
- The Jewish laws said people should only eat the meat of certain animals that were considered clean. Because Peter followed the Jewish rules about which animals to eat, He wouldn't have eaten the animals in his vision because all of those animals were considered "unclean."
- **But when Peter called them unclean, what did God say?** He said, "Do not call them unclean, for God has made them."
- Peter was still trying to figure out what this meant when Cornelius' men came to see Peter. At the time, Jewish people (like Peter) weren't supposed to associate with non-Jews, also called Gentiles (like Cornelius' men). Kind of like the "unclean" animals, the Jews thought Gentiles were unclean and impure.
- Usually, Peter wouldn't associate with Cornelius' "unclean" men. **But what did the voice in the vision tell Peter to do?** It told him to go to Cornelius's house.
- **Have you ever gone somewhere that you thought would be boring, and it turned out to be a lot of fun?** Peter might not have been excited to go to Cornelius's house because Jews weren't supposed to hang out with Gentiles.
- **Why do you think Peter went?**
- Let's read Acts 10:34-35 again. **What was the big lesson that God had taught Peter?** God was teaching Peter that all people are children of God and God loves and accepts them. God doesn't have favorites.
- **Why do you think people still have trouble believing that today?**
- **Does God have favorite groups of people?**
- God doesn't love you more than others, no matter what you do. He doesn't care more about some people than others. He accepts and loves you just because you are His child, and He feels that way about all people. This leads us to our Big Idea of the day, which tells us...

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus loves everyone.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
 - Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a “hunt” for it. When it’s found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week’s Big Idea: **Jesus loves everyone.**

ACTIVITY | Four Corners

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Assign each corner of the room a number one through four and tell all the kids what number each corner is. Choose one kid to stand in the middle with their eyes closed. They will count to ten, and all the other kids will move to one of the corners. Before the child in the middle opens their eyes, they will choose one of the numbers and call it out. Whatever kids are in that corner are out. Keep playing until you have a winner.
- **How did it feel when you got out?** In our True Story today, we learned about a vision that Peter had and it had four corners in it. Peter’s vision helped him see how God loves each person the same.
- Even though God loves us all the same, it doesn’t mean we are all the same. We all look differently, sound differently, and like different things.
- But no matter how different we are, God loves each and every one of us. In our true story today, we learned that God used a sheet to show His followers in the Bible that He cares about all people!

OBJECT LESSON | Different Colored Eggs (or Apples)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Get two raw eggs, one with a brown shell and one with a white shell, and two bowls. If you can’t find eggs in two colors, or you have an egg allergy in your ministry, you could use two apples that are different colors. As you talk, let the kids compare the eggs (or apples) and examine them. Let them make guesses about what each object will look like on the inside. Then crack the eggs into separate bowls and let the kids look at them (without touching!) and tell you what they see. **NOTE: Be aware of egg allergies.**
- **Let’s look at these two eggs. Can you tell me what is different about them?** Their color is different, but that’s about it!
- **What things are the same about them?**
- **What if we crack them open? Do you think they will be the same or different?**
- **What do you notice about the two eggs now that we’ve cracked them open? Are they more similar or more different?** You would probably never know there was a difference if you hadn’t seen the outside.
- **Do you think we tend to care more about people’s outside appearances or who they are on the inside?**

SCRIPTURE | 1 Samuel 16:7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!

- This verse talks about how God chose David to be a mighty ruler, even though he appeared small and weak. **Do you think God cares more about what is on the outside or the inside of a person?**
- God created each and every one of us, and He loves us all. He is more concerned with who we are on the inside than with the way we look. The way we look doesn't make us better, or worse, or more lovable, or less lovable.
- God loves each of us no matter what color we are, where we are from, what height we are, or whether we're a man or woman.
- **If God loves everyone equally, just as they are, how should we treat other people?** God wants us to love and care for everyone, just like He loves them.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Favorite Things

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids get in groups of three to five. Read the list of favorite things and have them all share their favorites. If anyone in their group has the same favorites, have them stand up until you call out the next category. You could use categories like favorite color, movie, dessert, restaurant, animal, place, game, ice cream flavor, song, etc.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Give them a magazine to look at and find their favorite things, or have them draw pictures of their favorite things.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Make this game into a competition and let them group up as fast as they can according to their favorite things.
- Some of us have the same favorites, and some of us have different favorites, and that's okay. That's how God made us! We're all unique and special. You don't have to be like anyone else.
- You and I have a lot of favorite things, but do you know who has no favorites? God! He loves each and every one of us, and He wants us to love each other that way, too.

OBJECT LESSON | Blending Colors

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out coffee filters, markers, and a cup or bowl of water to all the kids. Have them color spots on the coffee filter with markers. Then have the kids lay the filter on a few pieces of paper towel so it doesn't bleed through. They can dip another piece of paper towel into the water and begin to drop and squeeze it onto the filter. Immediately, the colors will begin to run together and create a beautiful tie dye!
- It would be boring if we were all the same, or looked the same, or liked the same things. Instead, God is so creative and made us all different.
- Look at how beautiful all of these colors look when they blend together to create something new! Just like these beautiful colors mix together, it's beautiful when we let all of our differences mix together when we decide to be friends who love and accept each other.
- Just like all these colors came together to make something so awesome, we can come together to make something beautiful, too!

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 1:27

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!

- **Who did God create in His image?** Everyone! We were all created in His image. That means we reflect the good qualities of God.
- **Out of all the things God created (plants, animals, mountains, people – all sorts of things), which of God’s creations reflects the image of God?** People.
- **What does this tell us about how special people are to Him?**
- God created every person on earth. Every person of every color, every nation, every size, and every shape. When we look at any person, we see someone who was made especially by God in that way.

PRAYER | Paper Person Chain

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the Paper Person Chain printables and give one to every kid. Fold on the dotted lines and tell them to cut out the person while the paper is folded. Unfold the paper and you should have a string of paper people holding hands. While you do, ask the kids to think of four people they know who are very different from each other. Write one name on each paper person.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Cut the person out ahead of time and help them write the names of people they know on each person.*
- Let’s take a moment to pray for each person you named. Let’s pray for each person to know they are made in God’s image and loved by Him.

MEMORY VERSES | Psalm 119:105; Galatians 5:22

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you’d like.*

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **How were Peter and Cornelius different?** *(Peter was Jewish and Cornelius was not.)*
- **What did they have in common?** *(God sent visions to both of them.)*
- **What was the big lesson God taught Peter through his vision?** *(God doesn’t show favoritism, but loves all people.)*
- **Is it easier to love people who are like you, or who are different from you? Why do you think that is?**
- **What are some ways we are different from each other? How are we alike?**
- **How do you think God wants you to treat people who are different from you?**
- **How can you show love to people who are different from you?**

SCRIPTURE | James 2:1-4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **Who was treated better in these verses? How? How would you feel if you were the poor person in this story?**
- **Why would God not want us to treat the poor person differently than the rich person?**

ACTIVITY | Role Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share each of the following scenarios with your group. For each scenario, have students act out the wrong way to respond in the situation and then a right way that shows God's love. Ask the kids how they could show God's love in each scenario. Choose some scenarios that would be relevant to your group of kids, or use the following scenarios:
 - A girl joins your class who is from a different country and does not speak much English.
 - A kid who is a famous movie star comes into your class.
 - A kid who is homeless and wears old clothes comes into your class.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Or you could include these examples to help your entire group consider how they would show God's love. Read a list of examples of scenarios that include people with disabilities.

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