

**STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS**  
**IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

**Lesson 25 – Cornelius Calls for Peter - [Acts 10:1-8](#)**

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

***Cornelius Has a Vision***

**1**There was a man living in Caesarea at this time named Cornelius. He was a captain in what was known as the Italian Regiment.

**2**He and all his family were very devout people, truly dedicated to God. He gave generously to those in need, and was constantly praying to God.

**3**About three o'clock one afternoon he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God come into his room and say, "Cornelius!"

**4**He stared at the angel, terrified. "What is it you want, Sir?" he asked.

"Your prayers and your generosity to the needy have been an acceptable sacrifice\* to God," the angel answered.

**Acts 10:4** – "An acceptable sacrifice," *i.e. a memorial before God.*

**5**"You are to send some men to Joppa, who are to bring back to you a man by the name of Simon Peter.

**6**"He is staying with another Simon, a tanner of leather, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do."

**7**As soon as the angel was gone, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a godly soldier from among those who constantly cared for his needs.

**8**After telling them what had happened, he sent them to Joppa.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Lesson 25 – Cornelius Calls for Peter - [Acts 10:1-8](#)**

324. Who was Cornelius? ([10:1](#))

325. Where did Cornelius live? ([10:1](#))

326. What did Cornelius do for a living? ([10:1](#))

327. How did the Roman officer and his family relate to God? ([10:2](#))
328. How did Cornelius help those in need? ([10:2](#))
329. What did Cornelius experience one afternoon? ([10:3](#))
330. How did Cornelius respond to the angel? ([10:4](#))
331. How did the angel affirm the centurion's life-style? ([10:4](#))
332. What did the angel command Cornelius to do? ([10:5-6](#))
333. When the angel left, what did Cornelius do? ([10:7-8](#))
334. Who did Cornelius send to Joppa? ([10:7-8](#))

## **Lesson 26 - Peter's Vision - [Acts 10:9-23](#)**

### ***Peter's Vision***

<sup>9</sup>About noon the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching Joppa, Peter went up on the roof deck to pray.

<sup>10</sup>While there he became very hungry and wished that lunch was ready. But while the meal was being prepared, he had a vision.

<sup>11</sup>He saw the sky open, and then an object like a very large sheet of canvas started coming down to him. It was suspended at the four corners as it was being lowered to the earth.

<sup>12</sup>On this sheet were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, including wild animals and crawling creatures, and wild birds.

<sup>13</sup>Then he heard a voice, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

<sup>14</sup>"No! Absolutely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

<sup>15</sup>But the voice spoke again, saying, "You must never call anything unclean after God has offered it to you as something you may eat."

<sup>16</sup>This happened three times. Then the sheet was taken back up into the sky.

<sup>17</sup>At the very moment that Peter was puzzling over what this vision was all about, the men sent by Cornelius, after asking directions to Simon's house, now stood at the gate.

<sup>18</sup>They called out, asking if Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.

<sup>19</sup>As Peter was trying to figure out the meaning of this vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, "Listen, three men are looking for you."

20“So get up and go downstairs, and go with them. Don’t think twice about going, because I have sent them.”

21So Peter went down to the men and said, “Yes, I’m the one you’re looking for. Why have you come?”

22“We were sent by Captain Cornelius,” they replied. “He’s a man who lives right and is truly dedicated to God, a man respected by Jewish people everywhere. A holy angel from God told him to ask you to come to his house and listen to a message you would have for him.”

23Peter then invited them in, and arranged for them to stay overnight. The next day Peter went with them, and several of the Lord’s followers in Joppa went along.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 26 - Peter's Vision - [Acts 10:9-23](#)

335. Where was Peter when the centurion’s men approached Joppa? ([10:9](#))

336. What was Peter doing? ([10:9](#))

337. How did Peter feel? ([10:10](#))

338. What did Peter experience while food was being prepared for him? ([10:10-16](#))

339. What did Peter see in a vision? ([10:11-12](#))

340. What did the voice instruct Peter to do? ([10:13](#))

341. Why did Peter protest against the command to eat? ([10:14](#))

342. How were Peter’s objections silenced? ([10:15](#))

343. Why was this incident repeated three times? ([10:16](#))

344. What happened while Peter was wondering about the vision? ([10:17-20](#))

345. How was Peter prepared for the messengers? ([10:19-20](#))

346. What did Peter say to the messengers? ([10:21](#))

347. What did the messengers tell Peter? ([10:22](#))

348. How did Peter respond to the messengers’ request? ([10:23](#))

**Lesson 27 - Peter at Cornelius' House - [Acts 10:24-48](#)**

***Peter in the Home of Cornelius***

24They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Cornelius was waiting for them, and had invited his relatives and close friends to the meeting.

25As Peter was entering the house, Cornelius came forward and fell to his knees in front of him, and worshiped him.

26But Peter grabbed hold of him and helped him to his feet, saying, “Stand up! I’m only a man like you.”

27As Peter continued talking with him, he went inside and found a large crowd gathered.

28“‘You people know very well,’” he said to them, “‘that our religion forbids a Jew to visit or associate with anyone who is not a Jew. But God has shown me that I must not call any man common or unclean.

29“‘So I came without any objection as soon as I was sent for. But now I ask you, for what reason have you sent for me?’”

30“‘Four days ago I was fasting until this time of day,’” Cornelius replied. “‘About three in the afternoon as I was praying here in my home, suddenly, a man in radiant clothing stood in front of me.

31“‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayers,’ he said, ‘and He has noticed the help you have given those in need.

32“‘So send for a man in Joppa named Simon Peter. He is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner of leather, who lives by the sea. When he arrives, he will have a message for you.’”

33“‘So I sent for you right away, and we are so glad you have come. And now, we are all gathered here in the presence of God, waiting to hear all that God has told you to tell us.’”

34Then Peter began speaking. “‘I can clearly see now,’” he said, “‘that God does not practice favoritism.

35“‘But in every nation, He accepts those who are truly devoted to Him and do what is right.

36“‘This is the message He has sent to the people of Israel: The amazing Great News is that we can have peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

37“‘You’ve all heard about the events that took place after John preached his message about baptism. It’s been published all over Judea.

38“‘It all began in Galilee, where God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He then went everywhere, doing good and healing all who

were under the power of the devil. He could do all these things because God was with Him.

39“And we were there. We saw all the things He did throughout Israel and in Jerusalem. But they killed Him by nailing Him to a cross!

40“But three days later God raised Him back to life, and gave many of us the opportunity of seeing Him again.

41“He wasn’t seen by everyone, only by some of us whom God had previously chosen. Some of us even ate and drank with Him after He was raised from death.

42“And He commanded us to preach the Great News to people *everywhere*—and to tell them earnestly and clearly that He is the One who has been appointed by God to be our Judge, both while we are alive and after we are dead.

43“All the prophets spoke and wrote about Him. Everyone who now comes to God in His name will receive forgiveness for their sins by believing in Him.”

44*Then an amazing thing happened.* While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came down upon all the people there who were listening to his message.

45The Jewish followers of the Lord who had come with Peter were amazed that the Holy Spirit had also now been poured out upon the Gentiles,

46because they heard them praising God for His greatness and speaking in languages they hadn’t learned. Then Peter said,

47“These people have received the Holy Spirit in the same way we did!\* Who then can stop them from being baptized in water?”

Acts 10:47 – “The same way we did!\*” See Acts 2:1-18; 8:14-19.

48So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of the Lord. The people then begged Peter to stay a few days.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 27 - Peter at Cornelius' House - [Acts 10:24-48](#)

349. Who was with Peter when he arrived in Caesarea? ([10:23-24](#))

350. How had Cornelius prepared for Peter’s visit? ([10:24-25](#))

351. How did Peter refuse the centurion’s homage? ([10:25-26](#))

352. Who was inside the centurion’s house? ([10:27](#))

353. What did Peter say to show that he had learned what God had wanted him to learn? ([10:28-29](#))
354. What did Peter ask? ([10:29](#))
355. How did Cornelius respond? ([10:30-33](#))
356. In what way was Peter's understanding of God changed by his vision? ([10:34-35](#))
357. What was Peter's message to the group? ([10:34-43](#))
358. How was Peter's message interrupted? ([10:44-46](#))
359. Why did Peter suddenly stop talking? ([10:44-46](#))
360. What happened to the non-Jewish believers to show the Jewish believers that God accepted them? ([10:44-46](#))
361. How did the circumcised believers react to what happened? ([10:45-46](#))
362. How did Peter sum up what had happened? ([10:47-48](#))
363. What did Peter command? ([10:48](#))
364. In what ways was fellowship between believing Jews and believing non-Jews improved during Peter's stay in Caesarea? ([10:48](#))