

**HEROES**

**OF THE**

**FAITH**

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power

**45**

***THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES TO THE GENTILES***

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

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# 45

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES TO THE GENTILES**

### **Memory Verse:**

The Holy Spirit says, "Listen to His voice today. If you hear it, don't be stubborn."  
(Hebrews 3:7-8a NIV)

### **Lesson Goals:**

- #1 - Understand how ordinary Cornelius was
- #2 - Discover what obedience led Cornelius to do
- #3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

### **Audience:**

Young, un-churched learners  
Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

### **Scripture to Study:**

Acts 10:1-48



# 45

## THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES TO THE GENTILES

Acts 10:1-48

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our hero:** Cornelius

**His Heroic Feat:** Worships the One True God

Worshipping the One True God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

We have been talking about Paul and what happened after the persecution of the church caused the believers to leave Jerusalem. Do you remember that the disciples were the only ones to remain in Jerusalem? Let's talk about one of those disciples, Peter. In our lesson today, we find Peter away from Jerusalem. He was visiting a man named Simon in the town of Joppa at a house by the sea.

God was doing something amazing, because up north, in the port town of Caesarea, He sent an angel to a man named Cornelius. Cornelius was "an officer in the Italian group of the Roman army." (Acts 10:1 NCV) He was a religious man who, along with everyone else in his home, "worshipped the true God." (Acts 10:2 NCV) The angel from God came to visit Cornelius one afternoon about three o'clock. Cornelius was afraid, but the angel said that God had heard Cornelius' prayers. The angel also said that God had seen the gifts Cornelius had given to the poor. "God remembers you," the angel said. Then the angel instructed Cornelius to send some men to Joppa to bring back a man named Peter. Once the angel left, Cornelius did exactly as the angel told him to do.

The next day, around noon, as the men were about to arrive in Joppa, Peter was up on the roof of Simon's house. He was praying. Peter had a vision while he was praying. "He saw heaven opened and something coming down that looked like a big sheet being lowered to earth by its four corners. In it were all kinds of animals, reptiles and birds." (Acts 10:11-12 NCV) Peter heard a voice that told him to eat the animals. As a Jew, Peter had learned from the Old Testament all the rules about clean animals that were okay to eat and unclean animals that shouldn't be eaten. And now this voice from heaven was telling him to eat the unclean animals! No! "But the voice said to him again, 'God has made these things clean, so don't call them "unholy"!' This happened three times, and at once the sheet was taken back into heaven." (Acts 10:15-16 NCV) As Peter was trying to understand the vision, the men Cornelius sent knocked at Simon's door. "While Peter was still thinking about the vision,

the Spirit said to him, 'Listen, three men are looking for you. Get up and go downstairs. Go with them without doubting, because I have sent them to you.'" (Acts 10:19-20 NCV)

Peter went with them. When they arrived in Caesarea, Cornelius was waiting. Cornelius wasn't alone; he had invited all of his relatives and close friends. Peter understood the vision God had given him about the animals. Peter explained to the people there "that it is against [the] law for Jewish people to associate with or visit anyone who is not Jewish." (Acts 10:28 NCV) This law was a lot like the clean and unclean animals in Peter's vision. Then Peter told them, "but God has shown me that I should not call any person 'unholy' or 'unclean.'" (Acts 10:28 NCV) Then Peter asked Cornelius why they had sent for him.

Cornelius explained the message from the angel and then said, "Now we are all here before God to hear everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us." (Acts 10:33 NCV) So Peter began to speak, "I really understand now that to God every person is the same. In every country God accepts anyone who worships Him and does what is right." (Acts 10:34-35 NCV) Then Peter explained God's gift of Jesus and while Peter was still talking, the Holy Spirit filled everyone who was listening! The Holy Spirit filled these Gentiles, non-Jews, as a seal of their relationship with God. And so they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ!



### ***YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!***

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Cornelius worshipped the one true God. He didn't let where he lived or how he grew up stop him from following the Truth. (John 14:6)

How about you? Do you worship the one true God? Have you begun a relationship with God based on the death of His Son in your place? If not, let's talk. If so, are you following the Holy Spirit's lead? Our memory verse says, "The Holy Spirit says, 'Listen to His voice today. If you hear it, don't be stubborn.'" (Hebrews 3:7-8a NIV) When you sense the Holy Spirit's guidance, make a habit of following and being obedient.

# PRE-SCHOOL!

## LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our hero:** Cornelius

**His Heroic Feat:** Worships the One True God

Worshipping the One True God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

In our lesson today, we find a man named Peter in a town called Joppa. Peter had been one of Jesus' twelve disciples. We find him in our lesson today visiting a man named Simon in the town of Joppa at a house by the sea.

God was doing something amazing, because up north, in the port town of Caesarea, He sent an angel to a man named Cornelius. Cornelius was a Roman officer. He was a religious man. He and everyone else in his home, "worshipped the true God." (Acts 10:2 NCV) The angel from God came to visit Cornelius one afternoon about three o'clock. The angel told Cornelius to send some men to Joppa to bring back a man named Peter. Once the angel left, Cornelius did exactly as the angel told him to do.

The next day, around noon, as the men were about to arrive in Joppa, Peter was up on the roof of Simon's house. He was praying. Peter had a vision while he was praying. He saw heaven open and a big sheet being lowered. In the sheet were all kinds of animals, reptiles and birds. Peter heard a voice tell him to eat the animals. Peter had been raised not to eat those animals because they weren't clean. But the voice told him again that God had made those things clean. As Peter was trying to understand the vision, the men Cornelius sent knocked at Simon's door. God's Holy Spirit told Peter to go with the men, so Peter went.

When they arrived, Cornelius was waiting; he had invited all of his relatives and close friends. Peter understood the vision God had given him about the animals. Peter explained to the people there that even though it was against the law for Jewish people to associate with or visit anyone who is not Jewish, God has shown him that it was okay. Peter said, "I really understand now that to God every person is the same. In every country God accepts anyone who worships Him and does what is right." (Acts 10:34-35 NCV) Then Peter explained God's gift of Jesus and while Peter was still talking, the Holy Spirit filled everyone who was listening! And so they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ!

# ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse on empty calendar pages. Be sure to include the Scripture reference.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing the "Father, I Adore," "Spirit of the Living God," "Breathe on Me," "Amazing Grace," "Amazing Love," or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- Make clocks with movable arms. Practice finding the time of the angel's visit with Cornelius and the time when Peter was praying and Cornelius' men arrived in Joppa.
- Provide a map that includes Caesarea and Joppa. Encourage your students to measure the distance between the two.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Hebrews 3: 7-8, 12-13 and 2 Timothy 4:1-5 in light of the lesson.
- **For more training:** Reread Acts 10:28 from the Amplified Bible.

The Holy Spirit says,  
“Listen to  
His voice today.  
If you hear it,  
don't be stubborn.”

Hebrews 3:7-8

**HEROES**

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Super Ordinary Power

# ***HERO IN TRAINING***

The Holy Spirit Comes to the Gentiles

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*Taking church to the people*



# HERO TRAINING!

**Scripture:**

Acts 10:1-48

**Memory verse:**

The Holy Spirit says, "Listen to His voice today. If you hear it, don't be stubborn." (Hebrews 3:7-8a NIV)

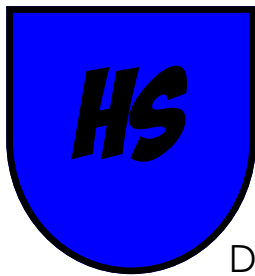
**Our Hero:** \_\_\_\_\_

What did our hero do that was so heroic? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have the power? \_\_\_\_\_

Review the lesson and the memory verse. What shouldn't you do when you sense the Spirit speaking? What should you do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Trace the word below to find out who filled Cornelius and the Gentile  
believers.

HOLY

SPIRIT

WORD

SEARCH!

S N L H J P T S O M F H B  
N E G O D A C C E P T S S  
O H E L T U P U T O R L T  
L T P Y H A E R A S E A C  
D S U S E H T E T U E M E  
O A P P O J E G D I V I S  
T E I I G A R P P L A N H  
S K L R D O T R H E S A B  
T A L I S C R I P N U N E  
E M A T E V E S L R B A F  
P S E L I T N E G O T E L  
H N E S R U O I P C N L K  
P E E H T A H L P D R C W  
N T D W S P V I S I O N N  
B S W O R S H A R U B U G

- Peter

- Joppa

- Cornelius

- Caesarea

- vision

- unclean animals

- God accepts

- Holy Spirit

- to Gentiles

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Trace the word below to find out who filled Cornelius and the Gentile  
believers.

HOLY

SPIRIT

# WORD

# SEARCH!

Answer Page

S	N	L	H	J	P	T	S	O	M	F	H	B
N	E	G	O	D	A	C	C	E	P	T	S	S
O	H	E	L	T	U	P	U	T	O	R	L	T
L	T	P	Y	H	A	E	R	A	S	E	A	C
D	S	U	S	E	H	T	E	T	U	E	M	E
O	A	P	P	O	J	E	G	D	I	V	I	S
T	E	I	I	G	A	R	P	P	L	A	N	H
S	K	L	R	D	O	T	R	H	E	S	A	B
T	A	L	I	S	C	R	I	P	N	U	N	E
E	M	A	T	E	V	E	S	L	R	B	A	F
P	S	E	L	I	T	N	E	G	O	T	E	L
H	N	E	S	R	U	O	I	P	C	N	L	K
P	E	E	H	T	A	H	L	P	D	R	C	W
N	T	D	W	S	P	V	I	S	I	O	N	N
B	S	W	O	R	S	H	A	R	U	B	U	G

- Peter

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- to Gentiles