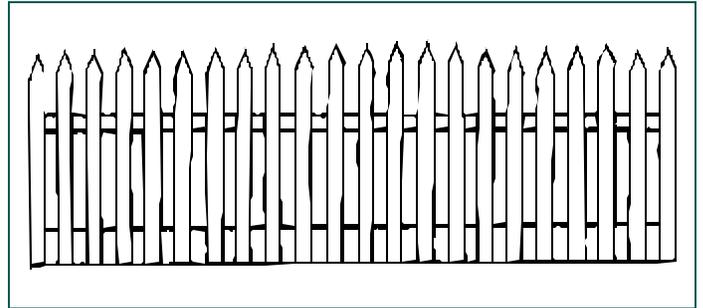


Cornelius and Peter

Acts 10

Why do people build fences?
What is done with a fence when it is no longer
necessary?



Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, in Your great love for us You have given us faith through the Holy Spirit in Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we study Your Word today show us any barriers we have in our lives that keep us from sharing the truth about Jesus with other people. Help us to take down these barriers. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Acts 10

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, {2} a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. {3} About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

{4} And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?"

So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. {5} "Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. {6} "He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do." {7} And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household

servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. {8} So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

{9} The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. {10} Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance {11} and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. {12} In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. {13} And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

{14} But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."



{15} And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." {16} This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

{17} Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. {18} And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there.

{19} While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. {20} "Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

{21} Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, "Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?" {22} And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you."

{23} Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him. {24} And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. {25} As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. {26} But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."

{27} And as he talked with him, he

went in and found many who had come together. {28} Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. {29} "Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?" {30} So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, {31} "and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. {32} 'Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.' {33} "So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

{34} Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. {35} "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. {36} "The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ; He is Lord of all; {37} "that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: {38} "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

{39} "And we are witnesses of all

things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. {40} "Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, {41} "not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. {42} "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. {43} "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." {44} While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy

Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. {45} And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. {46} For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, {47} "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" {48} And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Recalling Details - Mark each statement (T) true or (F) false.

_____ 1. Cornelius believed in Jehovah, the God of the Jews.

_____ 2. Cornelius was told to send for Simon Peter by an angel.

_____ 3. Peter was eager to eat meat from the animals in the sheet.

_____ 4. God told Peter to go with the men sent from Cornelius.

_____ 5. Cornelius wanted all his friends and relatives to hear Peter.

_____ 6. Peter never figured out what the vision meant.

_____ 7. Peter told Cornelius and the other people there about himself.

_____ 8. Cornelius and the other people who heard about Jesus received the Holy Spirit and believed.

_____ 9. Cornelius and the other people who believed did not want to be baptized.

Outer Aim - God wanted Peter to tell Cornelius and the others about Jesus their Savior, so they could be saved.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the Jewish attitude toward Gentiles?

2. How did God show Peter this was not the attitude God wanted him to have?

3. How do we sometimes show a bad attitude about other people?

4. What can be done about that?

Inner Aim - God's love is for all people. He wants His believers to show and tell the love of Jesus Christ to everyone.

Passages

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - "God our _____ ... desires _____ men to be _____ and to come to the knowledge of the _____. (*all, Savior, truth, saved*)

2 Peter 3:9 - " The Lord ... is _____ toward us, not willing that _____ should _____ but that _____ should come to _____. (*all, repentance, any, perish, longsuffering*)

Ephesians 2:13 - "But now in Christ _____ you who once were _____ off have been made _____ by the _____ of _____. (*Jesus, near, Christ, blood, far*)

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - " When you _____ the word of _____ which you heard from us, you _____ it not as the word of _____, but as it is in truth, the _____ of God. (*received, men, God, welcomed*)

Hymn - How does each of the following hymn stanzas fit this lesson?

Hymn #377, stanza 1

Hymn #225, stanza 5

Hymn #373, stanza 3

Hymn #510, stanza 3

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for saving Cornelius and his friends and relatives. Thank You for a love that sees past all the things that sometimes keep us from caring whether someone knows about You, their Savior, or not. Lord, we know that no one is saved without faith in You. Help us to love more so that we do care about the salvation of others and do share the truth about You. Amen.