



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** A Miraculous Church  
Spring Year 2, Lesson 55

# A Miraculous Vision—Peter and Cornelius

**Take Home Point:** \*God wants to include all kinds of people. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Acts 10:1-48, Ephesians 2:14, 16

**Key Verse:** Romans 15:7. "Therefore, accept each other in the same way that Christ accepted you."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of how God miraculously put Peter and Cornelius together to show them he wanted to include both Jews and Gentiles in his church.
- Churches can sometimes have an attitude of excluding others.
- God wants us to be a part of knocking down the wall of separation.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Compassion for those who feel left out of church circles.
- Convicted if they are a part of excluding others.

**We will help kids do:**

- Experience including others in a unique game of volleyball.
- Share candy with others so no one is left out.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3-4	Kids are either identified as having dots or not having dots. They are made to feel uneasy as some are included and others excluded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dot stickers</li> <li>• candy or snack</li> <li>• sheet</li> <li>• some chairs or something to drape the sheet over to form a divider</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  8-9  9  10-11	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy Gets Dotted” – Gordy doesn’t want to be left out of the group that receives candy, so he puts lots of dots on his face.  <b>Video:</b> <i>The Visual Bible: Acts---</i> Acts 10:1-48  <b>Puppet Presentation Conclusion:</b> “Gordy Gets Dotted” – Gordy interviews a volunteer summarizing the main points from Acts 10. He concludes that since Jesus loves all people and died for everyone, we should also accept and welcome others rather than be exclusive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hat for Gordy with “Newsboy” on it (used in previous lessons)</li> <li>• Gordy puppet</li> <li>• dot stickers</li> <li>• candy for the helper</li> <li>• <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i> cued up at Acts 10:1-48, produced by Visual Bible International, 1997</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5-7	Kids play Piggy Volleyball as a reminder of the Bible event and also to show how they can work together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• three sheets or blankets</li> <li>• stuffed pig or plastic ball</li> <li>• string</li> <li>• two chairs</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Supplies needed: a sheet, colorful dot stickers, snack, some chairs or something to drape the sheet over to form a divider*

As the kids arrive, place a dot on the forehead of half of them.

**Today we will play a game called The Dividing Wall. All the kids wearing dots go to one side and those without dots go to the other.**

**All the un-dotted kids please have a seat and remain quiet. All you dotted kids will receive a special snack.**

Let each kid with a dot each take a snack. (Be sure there are enough snacks left to share with the other children later.)

Say to the dotted group:

**I am going to put this wall up so these undotted kids won't bother you.**

Put the sheet over a row of chairs to make a wall.

**While you enjoy your candy, I am going to go talk with the un-dotted kids for a while. You can have a good time over here with your candy because you are dotted people.**

To the un-dotted group, say:

**How do you feel about being an un-dotted person? Have you felt left out before?**

Take two or three answers.

**I need to check on the dotted kids.**

Go over and talk with the dotted kids.

**How do you feel about being a dotted person? (Take two or three answers.)**

Say to the whole group:

**This wall keeps us separated and makes one group feel more important and the other group feel bad.**

Take the wall down and say:

**Today we will talk about a wall that separates people. It's not a visible wall like ours, but it is a wall that keeps people apart and some feeling rejected.**

**Do you know of any groups in your school that make others feel left out? Have you ever noticed any churches that don't accept other churches? Discuss.**

Give the undotted kids their snacks and say:

**Today we will hear that *\*God wants to include all kinds of people.* He wants to break down any wall that separates people in the church. He showed us this by doing an amazing miracle between two people.**

## **Large Group: 20-30 minutes**



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### **Overview**

**Puppet Presentation:** "Gordy Gets Dotted" – Gordy doesn't want to be left out of the group that receives candy, so he puts dots all over his face.

**Video:** *The Visual Bible: Acts---* Acts 10:1-48.

**Puppet Presentation Conclusion:** "Gordy Gets Dotted" – Gordy interviews a volunteer summarizing the main points from Acts 10. He concludes that since Jesus loves all people and died for everyone, we should also accept and welcome others rather than be exclusive.

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Acts 10 in their Bibles for the following questions.

**What were the names of the two men who had miraculous visions?** *(Acts 10:3-16. Peter and Cornelius.)*

**What nationality was Peter?** *(Jewish.)* **Cornelius?** *(Roman.)*

**What did Cornelius see in his vision?** *(Acts 10:3-6. An angel told him to send for a man named Simon Peter.)*

**What did Peter see in his vision from the Lord?** *(He saw the sky open and something like a large sheet lowered by its four corners to the ground. In the sheet were all kinds of four-footed animals, reptiles, and birds. A voice told Peter to kill the animals and eat them. Peter answered that he couldn't eat anything that the Jews considered unclean or impure. The voice spoke again and said, "Don't say that the things which God has made clean are impure." This happened three times, and then the sheet was quickly taken into the sky.)*

**How did Peter respond to the messengers from Cornelius?** *(Acts 10:22-24. He listened to their message and invited them in to stay overnight. The next day he left with them and traveled to Cornelius' home in Caesarea.)*

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**This was very unusual that Peter, a Jew, would have non-Jewish men stay in his home and then stay with another non-Jewish family. What does Peter's action show he learned from God in his vision?** *(That if God considered non-Jews to be acceptable to him, Peter should also.)*

**What proof did Peter receive that God did in fact accept Cornelius and his non-Jewish family?** *(Acts 10:34, 44-48. After Peter had told them about Jesus, the Holy Spirit was poured out on them and they spoke*

*in other languages and praised God, just like what happened to the Jewish believers on Pentecost.)*

**How did Peter show his trust and faith in God?** *(He obeyed God when he was asked to do something that was uncomfortable for him and not acceptable to his traditions.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**How should we treat other believers who don't worship the same as us or who have different traditions?**

**How should we treat unbelievers that may visit our church?**

Application Activity: Piggy Volleyball

*Supplies: two towels, something to toss: a stuffed pig –or any small stuffed animal, or any size plastic ball), a make-shift volleyball net using two chairs and string*

Divide the kids into two teams and play Piggy Volleyball. This game can be played inside or outside. The object of this game is to work together to see how many times the piggy (or ball) can be passed back and forth over the volleyball net. This is not a competitive game. The goal is to see how many consecutive times the piggy can be tossed between the two teams by working together.

Each team's members hold onto an opened towel. They catch and toss the piggy using the towel.

To make it more of a challenge, the sheet from warm-up can be placed over the net so the other team is not visible.

After playing the game, gather the kids together to discuss:

**Can you remember a time when you excluded someone?**

**How do you think that person felt?**

**What can you do to help those who may feel left out?**

**What are some ways you can help break down the wall of separation in your family, school, or church?**

Conclude with the following:

**This net is like a dividing wall. Before Jesus freed us from the old law, the Jews were taught to be separate from other people. The piggy or ball also reminds us of Peter's vision and the sheet that came down with the un-clean animals on it in. He learned there are**

**no un-clean people. Jesus died for all of us. That is why each one of you held onto the towel. We as believers in Jesus are one team.**

**Our key verse from Romans 15:7 says, *“Therefore, accept each other in the same way that Christ accepted you.”***

**So we don’t want a wall keeping us separate, making some feel more important than others. Let’s take the wall down so we can all be part of the same team. *\*God wants to include all kinds of people.***

Remove the string or sheet so all kids can come together for prayer.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God that he sent Jesus who tore down the wall of sin that separated us from God. Thank him that he loves and died for all people. Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict us when we exclude others and ask for his help to accept and love others just as Jesus accepts us.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Gordy Gets Dotted Puppet Presentation

*Supplies needed: dot stickers to put on Gordy, hat with "Newsboy" on it (same as previous lessons), a piece of candy, The Visual Bible: Acts cued up at Acts 10:1-48*

**Mr. King:** Kids, should we welcome Gordy today?

Gordy appears with dots all over his face.

**Mr. King:** My, oh my, Gordy. You have dots all over you. Why is that?

Gordy: I don't want to miss out on the snack today.

**Mr. King:** All the other kids only had one dot, how did you get so many?

Gordy: Well, I had to un-dot a few kids.

**Mr. King:** You mean, you took them from other kids? I bet they didn't like that.

Gordy: Well, better them than me!

**Mr. King:** Gordy, you really didn't do that did you?

Gordy: Actually, I found my shepherd's supply tub. I borrowed a few dots from there.

**Mr. King:** Gordy, you shouldn't have done that without permission.

Gordy: I know, I'm sorry. When I heard about the game, I didn't want to be left out. I HATE being left out.

**Mr. King:** I do too.

Gordy: Have you ever been left out, Mr. King?

**Mr. King:** Oh, yes. I think everyone has been left out at sometime or another. How about you, Gordy? Do you remember a time when you were left out?

Gordy: (Sadly) I was not invited to a party last weekend.

**Mr. King:** I am sorry. That feels bad.



Gordy: Yes, even if you keep the friend's birthday present for yourself, it still feels bad.

**Mr. King:** **Gordy, today we want to see that God does not want people to feel left out of the church.**

Gordy: What do you mean?

**Mr. King:** **We'll learn that many years after Jesus had gone back to heaven, his disciples were still trying to understand what rules Jesus would have them follow. One of the old rules was that they shouldn't have anything to do with people who were not Jewish like them. Or, they shouldn't have anything to do with people who ate food that wasn't approved in Moses' law.**

Gordy: What kind of food was that?

**Mr. King:** **Food like ham, or squid.**

Gordy: Yuck!! You can have the squid sandwich; I'll take the ham sandwich.

**Mr. King:** **The point is, Gordy, God wants to include all kinds of people in the church.**

**I see you are still a newsboy.**

Gordy: I sure am. One of the best! I'm catching the latest action.

**Mr. King:** **You will catch some great action for a story here. We are going to witness another miracle. God talked to Peter at one place and Cornelius at another place. He brought these two men together to demonstrate that God wants to include all kinds of people.**

## **Video**

*The Visual Bible: Acts*-- show Acts 10:1-48. Produced by Visual Bible International 1997.

## **Gordy Gets Dotted**

### Puppet Conclusion

**Mr. King:**           **What did you think, Gordy?**

Gordy:               I have a few questions for my news story, Mr. King.

**Mr. King:**           **Great. Let's bring someone up, and see if they can help you answer those questions.**

Gordy:               Sure. How about four dots for four answers? If the answers are correct, Mr. King will give our volunteer a squid sandwich.

Bring up a volunteer.

Gordy:               My first question: Even though Cornelius was a Roman soldier (who were hated by the Jews), what kind thing did he do for poor Jewish people? *(He gave them gifts.)*

Gordy:               Second question: Peter had a vision while praying on the roof that four-footed animals, reptiles and birds the Jews considered unclean were lowered from the sky to the ground in a sheet-type thing. What did God tell him to do to the animals? *(To kill them and eat them.)*

Gordy:               Peter's vision occurred just before Cornelius' servants came to Peter's house and asked him to go back with them. Why did Peter go with them to Cornelius' house even though it was considered very wrong for a Jew to visit someone of a different race? *(God had shown Peter in the vision that he was no longer to call anyone unclean or impure.)*

Gordy:               After Cornelius told Peter about an angel that had appeared to him, what did Peter realize God wanted? *(God wanted all people to hear the good news of Jesus, not just the Jews.)*

Gordy:               I think the answers were all correct. Mr. King, you can give him/her the squid sandwich now.

**Mr. King:**           **Gordy, let's see if our volunteer would rather have a piece of candy rather than a squid sandwich. *(Piece of candy.)* Good, because that is all that I have. You may return to your seat.**

Gordy:               What was God trying to teach Peter with this miracle?

**Mr. King:** That Peter should accept other believers in Jesus even if they were not Jewish. It is sad but true; there are walls of separation in our churches. Sometimes we don't accept people because they come from a different country, speak a different language, are a different color, or are a different age. Sometimes we feel uncomfortable if others worship differently than we do.

Gordy: You mean like fourth graders thinking they are better than first graders?

**Mr. King:** Yes, maybe so.

Gordy: Oh, that's terrible! I'm just glad that I'm a third grader.

**Mr. King:** The Bible says this in Ephesians 2:14, *"So he is our peace. In his body he has made Jewish and non-Jewish people one by breaking down the wall of hostility that kept them apart."*

The Bible goes on to say in verse 16, *"He also brought them back to God in one body by his cross, on which he killed the hostility."* Jesus tore down that invisible wall that separates people by dying on the cross for the sins of all people. Because of this, we want to welcome all people into our church.

Gordy: I can do that.

**Mr. King:** Would you even share your candy?

Gordy: I would share a squid sandwich.

**Mr. King:** Or your candy?

Gordy: Okay. I guess I would share that too.

**Mr. King:** Let's be sure to include others. Would you say a closing prayer?

Gordy: Sure! Dear God, thank you for including us in your family. It feels rotten to be left out. We're glad you didn't leave us out. Thank you for Jesus who gave his life for all of us and took away that wall thing that separates us. Help us to include others and welcome them into our church. In Jesus' name, Amen.