

Crossword Puzzle

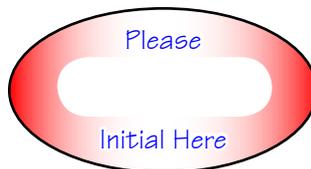


Across

Down

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2. ...an ____ appeared to Cornelius. | 1. ...the day of _____ |
| 5. ...to ____ the door of faith for about three thousand Jews... | 3. Peter spoke the truth of the _____ |
| 6. The Roman soldier. | 4. ...death of the ____ Jesus... |
| 7. ...cleansed the Gentiles through the ____ of the Lord Jesus on the cross | 6. The things that God has _____, do no make common. |
| 8. Those who are not Jews. | 9. The Lord did this by two _____. |
| 12. ...strong sign of God's acceptance of the Gentiles and of their salvation. | 10. ...sheet full of ____ and reptiles. |
| 15. ...large group of his family and close _____ | 11. ...I have never eaten anything common or _____. |
| 16. ...strong ____ of God's acceptance... | 13. The ____ Peter... |
| 17. ...the angel appeared to Cornelius as an answer to his _____. | 14. The apostle who went to see Cornelius. |
| | 15. ...the door of _____ |

Parent's Initials:



God's Calling in the New Testament

- Lesson Fourteen -

In Acts – Cornelius

I. Overview.

God is not a respecter of persons. His salvation in Christ is not only for the Jewish people, but to everyone who believes. The beginning of the church was among the Jews. The Jews had a very special relationship to God. They are the children of Abraham, whom God called out of Chaldea. They had a long history with God. The Gentiles were all the people who were not Jews. In the eyes of the Jews, the Gentiles were outside the blessings of God and outside His salvation.



To the Jews, some animals were clean and some were unclean.

But God's intention was to bring salvation to all men through the Jews. It was through the Jews that God brought Jesus Christ into humanity. Even from the very beginning God told Abraham that all the nations would be blessed through his seed. This seed was Jesus Christ. In this lesson we will see how God brought salvation to the Gentiles beginning with a man named Cornelius.

II. Memory Verse.

"To this One all the prophets testify that through His name everyone who believes into Him will receive forgiveness of sins."

(Acts 10:43)

III. Lesson.

Peter was the leading apostle in the early days of the church. The Lord used the apostle Peter's preaching to open the door of faith for about three thousand Jews on the day of Pentecost. The Lord also used Peter to open the door of faith for those who were not Jews, the Gentiles, at the house of a man named Cornelius.



Peter was living in Joppa when the Lord sent him to Cornelius.

Peter's Vision

Since the apostles mainly preached the gospel to the Jews, the Lord had to do something special to cause them to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. The Lord did this by two miracles. Firstly, an angel appeared to a pious Roman soldier named Cornelius, as an answer to his prayers. The angel told him to send for Peter, who was in a nearby town. Secondly, the Lord gave a vision to Peter which helped him realize that he needed to go to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

Peter saw a great vessel, like a sheet, full of animals and reptiles, come down from the heavens. The Lord then said "Rise up, Peter, slay and eat." But because these animals were considered by the Jews as being "unclean", Peter answered "By no means Lord, for I have never eaten anything common or unclean." Then the Lord said "The things that God has cleansed, do not make common." This same thing happened three times. Finally, Peter realized that God was telling him that He had cleansed the Gentiles through the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross and that they could also receive God's salvation. God was ready and willing to save anyone who believed in Him, not only the Jews, but also the Gentiles.

Peter Goes to Cornelius' House

Through these two miracles, Peter went to Cornelius' house. There he found Cornelius with a large group of his family and close friends. Peter spoke the truth of the gospel to them and they received his words. While he was still speaking, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them just as it was upon the Jewish believers on the day of Pentecost. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and miraculously spoke in other languages and magnified God. Because the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Gentiles in the same way as upon the Jews and because the result was the same, this was a strong sign of God's acceptance of the Gentiles and of their salvation.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. What is a Gentile?

2. How did the Lord tell Peter that he should preach the gospel to the Gentiles?

3. What happened when Peter spoke to the Gentiles?

4. What kind of person was Cornelius?

