

# All God's Children

## Objective



Each child will understand that God accepts everyone and so should we.

## Scripture



Acts 10:1-48  
(Peter and Cornelius)

## Memory Verse



I Timothy 5:21

## Planning Tips



Cut out the figures from *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 1, and use paper fasteners to attach the legs. Make sure you have a flannel board for displaying them. Read through this meeting for additional preparation suggestions.



## What You'll Need

- Bible Adventures* for Meeting 1 for each child
- All-Stars Weekly News* for Meeting 1 for each child

### GETTING STARTED

- Baldy Eagle Puppet*

### BIBLE LESSON

- Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 1
- Two paper fasteners
- Flannel and flannel board
- Bibles and pencils

### BIBLE APPLICATION

- Pencils

### BIBLE LEARNING

- Scissors, glue

- Student Award Book* for each child
- All the Best Songs for Kids* Songbook & Early Elementary CDs
- CD player
- Chalkboard or whiteboard
- Bibles
- Game: chairs
- Refreshments: animal crackers, fruit punch, paper cups, napkins



## Pre-Session

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

## What You'll Need OPTIONS

- All-Stars Weekly News* for Meeting 1 for each child

Follow your regular opening ceremonies: All-Stars rally, attendance, award checking and presentation, offering, and announcements. (See page 6 at the beginning of this book for the scheduled features.) Have children meet in their assigned groups to take attendance and check their award progress. If All-Stars for Jesus members arrive early, enlist their help in sharpening pencils, putting out craft supplies, and welcoming visitors. Take this time to get to know the children on a more personal basis.

## Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week

STEP  
1

## Getting Started

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

- Prayer Time

Ask, **What do you pray for?** Pause for responses, then say, **Besides asking God to heal sick people and meet our needs, let's ask Him to bring into our lives the people HE wants us to meet. God may surprise us by bringing into our lives people we usually wouldn't pick as friends. Pray for your usual requests, then have the children repeat after you, Dear God, please bring into my life today the people YOU want me to meet.**

## Second Meeting Options

### 1. Getting Started OPTIONS

- Song Time  
Sing ENOUGH LOVE, THERE'S NO ONE EXACTLY LIKE ME, and KIDS UNDER CONSTRUCTION from *All the Best Songs for Kids*.
- Theme Introduction  
Tell the children that you will take a poll about favorites today. As you count the number of hands, write the tally on the chalkboard or whiteboard.

# Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week

## STEP 1 Getting Started (Cont.)

### Theme Introduction

Have *Baldy Eagle Puppet* ask all the children who are wearing red (or whatever color several children are wearing) to stand. Say, **You're wearing the same color, but each of you is very different inside. And God loves each one of you very much!**

Have Baldy ask the children with brown eyes to stand. Say, **It doesn't matter whether your eyes are brown, green, or blue. Each of you is very special to God.**

Have Baldy ask those with a missing tooth to stand. Say, **Some of you are still waiting for your permanent teeth, and others already have some of them. But God loves each of you just the way you are.**

If there is time, continue by having Baldy ask the following to stand: boys, then girls, those with glasses, those with red hair, and those who speak Spanish. In each case, point out how valuable each child is despite any differences.

Say, **Today we'll see how God taught a Bible-times person that He loves all kinds of people.**

## STEP 2 Bible Lesson

(Allow 15-20 minutes)



### Explore the Bible Lesson

Cut out the figures of Cornelius, Peter, their legs, and the Sheet with Unclean Animals from *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 1. Back the figures with flannel pieces. Use a paper fastener to attach the legs to the men, so they can "kneel" on the flannel board. Hold your Bible open to Acts 10 as you tell the story.

### PETER AND CORNELIUS

(Acts 10:1-48)

#### God Hears a Man Who Is Different

Long ago, an army captain named Cornelius lived among the Jews. But Cornelius wasn't Jewish. He spoke a different language and he dressed differently from his Jewish neighbors, so they didn't want to be good friends with him. They considered him "unclean." They wouldn't even eat with him!

Cornelius prayed to God and tried to please Him. (Place Cornelius on the flannel board in a kneeling position.) God was pleased; He didn't care that Cornelius was different. God sent an angel to tell Cornelius, "God heard your prayers. Now send men to Joppa to find a man named Peter. You'll find him at Simon's house, by the seashore."

Cornelius was happy to obey. He sent three helpers to Joppa right away.

#### Peter Learns to Accept People Who Are Different

The next day, Peter was on the rooftop of Simon's house in Joppa. He also was praying. (Remove Cornelius. Place Peter on the board in

# Second Meeting Options

## 1. Getting Started (Cont.) OPTIONS

- If your favorite ice cream is vanilla, raise your hand.
- If your favorite ice cream is chocolate, raise your hand.
- If your favorite sport is soccer, raise your hand.
- If your favorite sport is basketball, raise your hand.
- If your favorite food is spinach, raise your hand.
- If your favorite food is pizza, raise your hand.

After tallying the results say, **We all have our favorite things, and not all of us have the same favorites. What about God? Do you think He has favorites when it comes to people? Let's find out what the Bible says about that.**

## 2. Bible Lesson OPTIONS

### Explore the Bible Lesson

(Choose three good readers to read the words of the angel, Cornelius, and Peter while you narrate the story as follows.)

Cornelius was an army captain who lived long ago. He wasn't Jewish, but he prayed to the true God whom the Jews worshipped, and he tried to please Him.

God was pleased with Cornelius; God didn't care what his nationality was. God sent him an angel. (Have "Cornelius" read Acts 10:4a, the "angel" read Acts 10:4b-6, and "Cornelius" read Acts 10:7-8.)

The next day, Peter was on the rooftop of Simon's house in Joppa. Peter was also praying, and he got quite hungry. God showed him a vision of a large sheet coming down from heaven, let down by its four corners. It was full of animals that Jewish people weren't supposed to eat: things like pigs and snakes. Then a voice said, "Peter, get up. Kill these animals and eat the meat."

(Have "Peter" read Acts 10:14.)

"If God has made something clean, don't call it unclean," the voice replied.

This happened three times, and then the sheet was pulled back up to heaven. The Lord told Peter that men were coming with an invitation from Cornelius, and that he should go with them.

Peter quickly went downstairs. There were the three men!

The next day he went with them to Cornelius' house. Cornelius met him and knelt before him. (Have "Peter" read Acts 10:26.)

Then Peter spoke to Cornelius and all the friends and relatives at his house. (Have "Peter" read Acts 10:28-29, "Cornelius" read Acts 10:30-33, and "Peter" read Acts 10:34-36.) Cornelius and his family believed the message and became Christians that very day. Peter had learned that they were just as special to God as Jewish people, so he stayed with them a few days and taught them more about Jesus.

## Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week

STEP  
2

### Bible Lesson (Cont.)



a kneeling position.) He saw a large sheet coming down from heaven, let down by its four corners. (Place the Sheet with Unclean Animals on the board, letting it down slowly until it's right above Peter.)

The sheet was full of animals that Jewish people weren't supposed to eat: things like pigs and snakes. Then a voice said, "Peter, get up. Kill these animals and eat the meat."

Peter was hungry, but he said, "Oh, no, Lord. I've never eaten anything unclean."

"If God made something clean, don't call it unclean," the voice replied.

This happened three times, and then the sheet was pulled back up to heaven. (Raise and remove the sheet.) Then God told Peter that men were coming with an invitation from Cornelius, and he should go with them.

Peter went downstairs. There were the three men! Peter promised to go with them.

#### Peter Tells Cornelius About Jesus

The next day, Peter left for Cornelius' house. ("Walk" Peter across the board.) Cornelius met him and kneeled before him. (Have Cornelius kneel.)

Peter said, "Stand up. I'm only a man like you."

(Have Cornelius stand.) Peter spoke to Cornelius and all the friends and relatives gathered at his house. He said, "You know it's against our Jewish laws for us to visit people who aren't Jews. But God taught me that I shouldn't call any person unclean, because He accepts people from every nationality. It doesn't matter what language you speak or what you look like. God wants everyone to know about His Son, Jesus."

Then Peter told the people that Jesus died for their sins, that He came alive again, and that He'd forgive them if they believed. Cornelius and his family believed the message and became Christians that very day.

Peter had learned that Cornelius' people were just as special to God as were the Jewish people, so he stayed with them a few days and taught them more about the Lord.

#### Study the Bible Lesson

Hand out pencils and the *Bible Adventures Activity Sheets* for Meeting 1 to the children. Have them look at the first page. Read the instructions and have them circle the different item in each line. (Answers: 1-Cornelius, 2-pig, 3-snake.) Point out that Peter thought all of these were "unclean" until God taught him otherwise. Have them vote on question 4 and print the answer. (Answer: unclean.)

Read the Bible story from the *All-Stars Weekly News Take-Home Papers* for Meeting 1. Encourage the children to read the Bible story again at home or have it read to them. If you hand out *All-Stars Weekly News* at your Second Meeting of the Week, let the children know they'll get a copy at their next meeting.

## Second Meeting Options

### 2. Bible Lesson (Cont.) OPTIONS

#### Review the Bible Lesson

Ask the children the following questions. Have them stand and nod if the answer is "yes," and sit and shake their heads if it is "no."

1. Was Peter Jewish? (*yes*)
2. Was Cornelius Jewish? (*no*)
3. Did Cornelius pray to the true God? (*yes*)
4. Did Peter pray to the true God? (*yes*)
5. Did it make any difference to God that Cornelius wasn't Jewish? (*no*)
6. Before he saw the sheet, did Peter want to be friends with Cornelius? (*no*)
7. After he saw the sheet, did Peter learn that God loves everyone? (*yes*)
8. Did Peter visit Cornelius and become his friend? (*yes*)

#### Review the Memory Verse

Print the verse on the board. Say it with the children, and ask them to tell you what it means. (*God asks us all to treat others fairly and without prejudice.*) Choose a volunteer to come up and erase one word. Then have the group repeat the verse. Do this until all the words, including the reference, are gone.

# Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week

STEP  
2

## Bible Lesson (Cont.)



### □ Bible Memory Verse

I Timothy 5:21— “I charge thee...[do] nothing by partiality.” (KJV)  
“I charge you...do nothing out of favoritism.” (NIV)

Introduce the verse, making sure the children understand it. Say, “Charge” here means to give someone an important responsibility. Then explain that “partiality” or “favoritism” is similar to “prejudice”—treating one person or group of people differently from others. Say, **The verse means: I’m giving you a big responsibility. Don’t ever act out of prejudice.**

Count off by twos, then have the two groups form facing lines. Say the memory verse twice with all the children. Then have Group 1 point at Group 2 and give them their “charge” by saying the verse. Do the same with Group 2. Repeat several times.

STEP  
3

## Bible Application

(Allow 10-20 minutes)



### □ Apply the Lesson

Have the children turn to page 2 of *Bible Adventures* for Meeting 1. Make sure they have pencils. Read the instructions and have the children circle the item that is different in each line. (Answers: 1-B, 2-D, 3-A, and 4-C.) Talk about each line, asking the children for ideas as to how the people who are the same could be accepting of the one who is different. If time allows, they could dramatize an act of kindness toward each of the pictured persons.

STEP  
4

## Bible Learning

(Allow 10-15 minutes)



### □ Bible Craft

Have the children turn to pages 3 and 4 of *Bible Adventures* for Meeting 1. Provide scissors and have them cut out the sheet and the words box. Let them glue the words box on the back center of the sheet. Have them fold inward on lines “A,” and outward on lines “B.” Say, **This craft will help you tell the Bible story to your friends.** Have the children pick up the sheet by the four corners and lower it. Then have them open it and tell why Peter wouldn’t eat the animals. (*He thought they were unclean.*) To discover what God taught Peter, have them read the message on the back of the craft.



## Closing Prayer

(Allow 5-10 minutes)



Thank God for each child, especially any who may be new to All-Stars for Jesus. Close by having everyone pray, **Thank You, God, that You love every kind of person.** At the close of the First Meeting of the Week, remind the children to bring their award books to the second meeting. Hand out *All-Stars Weekly News*, today’s craft, and *Bible Adventures* to each child.

# Second Meeting Options

## Leader Tip

### □ Bible Background

Acts 10:1-48 relates how God used Peter to proclaim the Gospel to a man named Cornelius, along with his relatives and close friends. Acts 10:1 says that Cornelius was a centurion in the Roman military, while Acts 10:2 reveals that he was a devout man who feared God. In ancient times, a centurion would be in charge of one hundred soldiers. *Centurion* was the highest rank that an ordinary enlisted soldier could attain, and promotion to this position was dependent upon battle experience and military savvy. Since centurions were given a great deal of autonomy on the battlefield, they had to think well on their feet.

## 3. Bible Application OPTION



### □ Apply the Lesson

Show the children *All-Stars Weekly News* for Meeting 1, briefly mentioning features from the fiction story, the Bible story, the Bible activities, and the family project. Read the fiction story to the children and discuss the questions that follow. Encourage the children to read the stories and do the activities at home this week.

## 4. Bible Learning OPTIONS

### □ Animal Upset

Play a variation of “Fruit Basket Upset.” Have the children sit in a circle. Whisper an animal name in each one’s ear. (Have more than one horse, pig, snake, etc.) Remove one chair and have that child (It) stand in the middle. It calls out, “[Horses] change seats with [pigs],” or whatever he wishes. While they exchange seats, It must try to get a seat. Whoever loses a chair calls the next animals. If It says, “Animal upset,” everyone exchanges places.

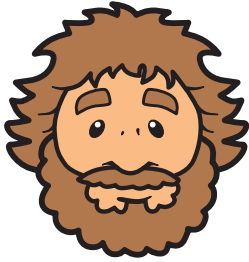
Remind the children of the lesson God taught Peter through the animal sheet — that no group of people is “unclean”; God loves us all.

### □ Refreshments

Give thanks for the refreshments and for God’s love for everyone. Then serve animal crackers and fruit punch. Review the concept that God loves everyone, as the children eat.

## Clean or Unclean?

Circle the item that is different in each line, 1 through 3. The picture you circle is something or someone that the Jewish people thought was “unclean.” Then circle the correct word to complete sentence 4.



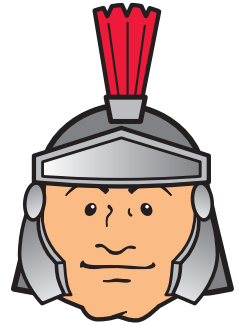
1. Peter



Jewish uncle



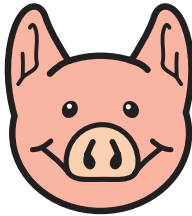
Jewish grandfather



Cornelius



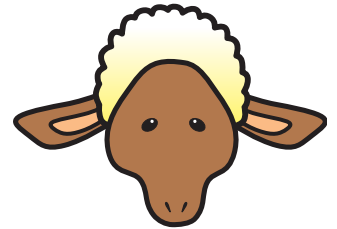
2. lamb



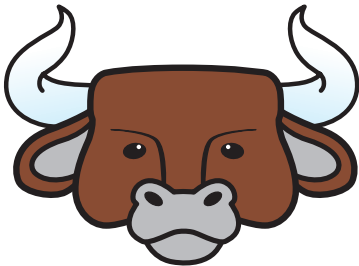
pig



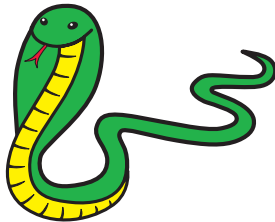
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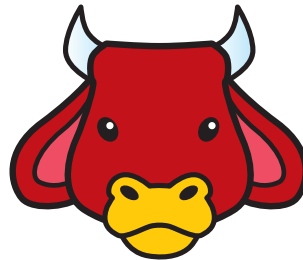
ewe



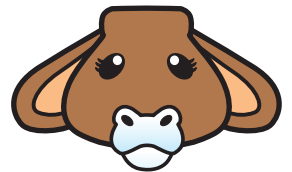
3. ox



snake



cow



calf

4. God taught Peter that no nationality is  clean  unclean.

# Which One Is Different?

Circle the child who is different in each line. Think about how the ones who are the same could show kindness to the person who is different.



1. A



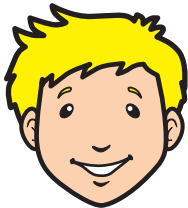
B



C



D



2. A



B



C



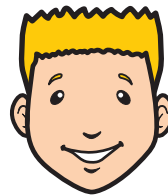
D



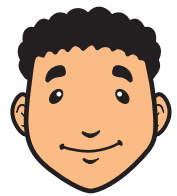
3. A



B



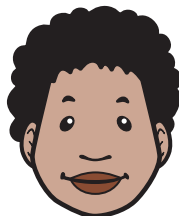
C



D



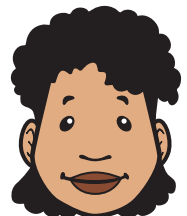
4. A



B



C



D

## Memory Verse To Learn

I Timothy 5:21 — “I charge thee...[do] nothing by partiality.” (KJV)  
“I charge you...do nothing out of favoritism.” (NIV)



God Accepts

All Kinds

of People