

More and more people heard about Jesus. More and more people were learning how to live in God's way. There were groups of Christians in many places. In each place, they would have a church. They didn't have church buildings. When Christian people come together to pray, to sing, and to work together, they are called a church.

So far, most of the people in the Christian church were Jewish. Some of them felt Jesus had only come to help Jewish people.

Peter often wondered about that. Peter felt deep down that maybe God's love should be shared with everyone.

Cornelius Becomes a Christian

Acts 10:1 - 11:18

One day while
Peter was praying,
he saw something
strange in
his mind.

Peter saw a big
cloth coming
down from the sky.
In the cloth were
all kinds of animals.
Some of the
animals were the
kind that Jewish
people wouldn't eat.

Then Peter heard a
voice. "Take these
animals Peter. Cook
them and eat them."

"Oh no," said Peter.
"I'm Jewish. Jewish people
say some of those animals are
unclean. We don't eat them."



“Don’t say they are unclean,” said the voice. “God made them.”

Then the big cloth went back up to the sky. But it came back again. And again. It happened three times.

Just then, there was a knock at the door.

“I have a message for Peter,” said the man at the door. “Would you come and visit Cornelius? Cornelius would like you to come and see him.”

Peter stopped to think. Cornelius was a soldier. Cornelius was not Jewish. “I’m Jewish,” thought Peter. “I shouldn’t go into the house of someone who isn’t Jewish.”

Then Peter remembered the big cloth. “God made Cornelius, just as God made me,” thought Peter. “I’m not unclean and neither is Cornelius. I think God wants me to go.”

Cornelius was very happy when Peter got there. “Thank you for coming,” he said. “Please tell me about Jesus.”

So Peter told Cornelius and his whole family all about Jesus. Peter talked about the many ways Jesus had showed us how to live in God’s way. “God wants us to be kind. We should never hurt each other. The power we have is the power of love.”

Peter looked at Cornelius. He looked at the other people in Cornelius’ family. Peter could see that the spirit of Jesus had come into their hearts.

“Would you like to be baptized?” Peter asked.

“Yes,” they all said. “We want to be baptized. We want to try to live in God’s way.”

Some of the other Christians were angry when they heard what Peter had done. “Cornelius and his family aren’t Jewish,” they said. “And Cornelius is a soldier. How can they be People of the Way?”

Peter told them about the big cloth and everything else that had happened. Then everyone understood that God’s love is for everybody. They knew that Jesus came to show God’s love for the whole world.

“Everyone can learn how to live in God’s way,” said Peter. “Everyone can be part of the Christian church.”