

**LESSON #97 – CORNELIUS THE CENTURION AND PETER**

*Acts 10-12*

Those who truly belong to Jesus and love Him want to do what He tells them. If you believe in Jesus and have His Spirit living in you then you will want to obey Him. You have been learning about the Apostles and how they were “sent out” by Jesus to tell others about Him. The Apostles wanted to do what God told them. For a long time they had thought that only the Jews were God’s people. God had chosen the Jews as His people many hundreds of years before. But God had done that to show that those who were really His people would love Him and obey Him. The Jews had disobeyed God and had worshipped idols many times. Now God wanted the Apostles to take the Gospel of Jesus to other nations and other people.

At first the Apostles did not want to take the good news to others. This lesson tells us how God showed Peter that he was to go preach to the Gentiles, to those who were not Jews. At the city of Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman soldier. He and his family believed in God and loved God. He always helped those who were in need and prayed to God all of the time. One day in the afternoon he had a vision. He saw an angel of God. The angels came to him and told him that what he was doing was pleasing to God. Then he told Cornelius to send some men to a city named Joppa, to bring back a man named Simon, who was called Peter. So Cornelius did as the angel had told him to do.

The next day the man whom Cornelius had sent made their way to Joppa. Just before they got there Peter went up to the roof to pray. Remember that in those days the houses had flat roofs and people often sat there to stay cool. As Peter was up on the roof he became hungry and wanted something to eat. While the servants were getting the meal ready Peter also had a vision. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It had in it all kinds of animals with four feet, and birds and animals which live in water. These were all animals which God had commanded the Jews not to eat because God said they were unclean. But now God told Peter to get up and take some of the animals and kill them and eat them. Peter said, “Surely no, Lord!” Peter knew that these things were not to be eaten. But God said that He had now made these animals clean. What did God mean? God meant that before this time the people of Judah and Israel had been His special people, but now He was going to call people to Himself from all nations. Soon Peter would understand this.

Then the men from Cornelius found Peter and told him that an angel had told them to send for Peter and to listen to him. The next day they went back to Caesarea. Peter knew now what God’s plan was. When he reached the house of Cornelius he gathered all of his relatives and close friends and Peter began to speak to them about Jesus. As Peter was speaking the Holy Spirit came upon the people there and they believed in Jesus and were baptized. They were even given some of the special gifts of the Holy Spirit and spoke in other languages as the disciples had done on the day of Pentecost.

When the Apostles and believers in Jerusalem heard what Peter had done they thought that he was wrong to set with Gentiles. But Peter went to Jerusalem and explained to them how God had shown him that he should do this. From this time on groups of believers began to grow everywhere and they began to call themselves “Christians,” followers of the Christ, Jesus. The Apostles and other believers were still being mistreated in Jerusalem. Some were even being put to death. Peter was thrown in prison again but was freed by an angel sent from God. The Word of God continued to spread and the church grew for this was God’s plan to save His chosen people from all nations.

**Memory Verse:** “Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name!” – Acts 10:43.

**Application:** Be ready to do God’s will for His plans are always good.

**LESSON #97 – THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL**

*Acts 13-14*

The book of the Acts of the Apostles, which we usually just call “Acts”, tells us about the growth of the church not only in the city of Jerusalem, but to other cities and other countries, too. Remember what Jesus had said to the Apostles just before He ascended into heaven; “And you shall be My witnesses, in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” Can the church be satisfied just to sit by and let those who do not believe in Jesus or have never heard of Him go to hell? No, God calls His people to spread the Gospel to others. Not everyone can be a preacher or a missionary to other places, but it is the duty of the church, the people of God, to send out men who have been called by God, to be His messengers to other places.

The church had grown in many places, and there were believers in other places. There was a large church in Antioch which was quite a ways north of Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas had been preaching there and teaching the people about Jesus and how they should live for Him. One day while they were worshipping God, the Holy Spirit told them that they should send Paul and Barnabas to be missionaries. So they prayed for them and placed their hands on them which was a sign that God had called them to this office, and then they sent them off. In those days, the missionaries had to walk wherever they went. It took them many days to travel from one place to another. In some places the people did not know anything about the one, true God. Then the missionaries would tell them all about the nation of Israel and how God had promised a Savior and that Jesus was a descendant of the great king David. They also told them how Jesus was the Son of God and that he had been crucified and had died, but had risen again! And then they told them this wonderful message wherever they went. That although they were guilty of sinning against God, by not believing in Him, worshipping Him, and obeying Him, if they believed in Jesus Christ then they would be forgiven by this one, true God, and they would live forever!

In some places the missionaries would stay only a few days or weeks. In other places they might stay a few months and in some places even longer. One of the places where Paul and Barnabas went was another city named Antioch which was in another country. After they had preached there about Jesus, the Jews became angry at them. They wanted to be the only people of God. But Paul read them a verse from the prophet Isaiah which said, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” This was God’s purpose all of the time, that all nations would believe in Jesus and be His people. When the Gentiles heard this, they thanked God, and many of them believed.

As God had done with some of the other leaders of the church, He gave Paul and Barnabas the ability to do miracles. Wherever they went many of the Jews hated them just as they had hated Jesus. Paul soon learned that he would have to suffer just as God had told him he would, but he loved Jesus and was willing to do anything to tell people about Him.

In the city of Lystra, Paul healed a man who could not walk, and the people there thought that Paul and Barnabas were gods and tried to worship them. They tried to tell them about the one, true God and about Jesus, but the Jews came and made the people angry at them by telling them that they were lying and trying to trick them. So they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city and left him, thinking that he was dead. But some of the believers there helped him, and the next day he and Barnabas left for the next city.

This was Paul’s first missionary journey. He would have two more as we shall see in the next lessons. Many churches were started and many people brought into God’s kingdom through faith in Jesus. They trusted in God even though the Jews tried to hurt them. Then Paul and Barnabas returned and told the church how God had brought many Gentiles into His kingdom.

*The First Missionary Journey (Continued)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORY VERSE

“I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.” – Acts 13:38

**APPLICATION**

Wherever there are true Christians there will be a desire to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to other people. There will always be many people who do not believe in Jesus. But we must never become discouraged, for God is at work through us and in us! God has chosen those who will be saved, and it is only through the preaching of His Word that anyone can believe and receive forgiveness and eternal life. As a part of the church, every believer must do what he or she can to help the church to do this great task for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**QUESTIONS**

Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom.

1. The “church” is God’s people, believers, and it is their duty to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by sending people to other countries to be \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus Christ.
2. Those who are called by God and sent by the church to be witnesses in other places are called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Paul and Barnabas had been preaching at the city of \_\_\_\_\_, and they were sent out by that church to be missionaries.
4. The most wonderful thing about the message of the Gospel is that those who believe in Jesus Christ are \_\_\_\_\_ by God from all their sins.
5. When the Jews became angry at Paul and Barnabas at one place, Paul quoted a verse from the prophet \_\_\_\_\_ to show that this was God’s idea and not theirs, to take the Gospel to the Gentiles.
6. When Paul and Barnabas performed miracles in Lystra, the people there thought that they were \_\_\_\_\_ and tried to worship them.
7. God had already told Paul that it would not be easy to be an Apostle, but Paul loved Jesus so much that he was willing to \_\_\_\_\_ anything to tell others about Him.
8. After the Jews had stirred up the crowd in Lystra, the people \_\_\_\_\_ Paul and left him outside of the city thinking that he was dead.
9. God used Paul and Barnabas to tell many people about Jesus Christ and to bring many into His \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Many \_\_\_\_\_ were started, and Paul and Barnabas set leaders in every one to teach the people and watch over them.

Isaiah  
forgiven  
gods  
Antioch

witnesses  
suffer  
kingdom

stoned  
churches  
missionaries

<b>Class 5 Memorization</b>	<i>HC Q+A:</i>		<i>Scripture:</i>	
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**LESSON #97 – ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA**

*Read Acts 4:32-5:11*

Isn't it fun to be a member of the church? Well, that is what some people today may think. They like the church because all of their friends go there and there may be lots of picnics and parties and things like that. The same was true at the beginning of the church. As more and more people believed and were baptized more people wanted to be a part of the church. But it is a very serious thing to be a part of God's kingdom and a member of the church of Jesus. Not just anybody can be a part of this body. It is only for those who love Jesus and who believe that He is their Savior and their Lord and Master. These people will want to obey Jesus and serve Him. God knows men's hearts. God knows your heart. What do you think of the church? It should be a joyful place. But the reason that there is joy there is that all those there share the Word of God and learn how to love each other and to serve Jesus. May we learn from this lesson never to take our membership in the church of Jesus Christ lightly!

**QUESTIONS**

1. What were the believers at this time doing with their possessions? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why were they doing this? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What were the apostles doing at this time? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What sin did Ananias and Sapphira commit? \_\_\_\_\_
5. According to what Peter says in verse 4, did Ananias and Sapphira have to give everything they had received for the land to the church? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What commandment do you think they broke? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What happened to Ananias when he heard what Peter said? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who came to where Peter was about three hours later? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did she know what had happened to her husband? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What did Peter ask her? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Read Acts 5:12-42. What does verse 11 tell us about the effect of this discipline upon the church? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 What is the final effect of the apostles being put in jail? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 How did they get out of jail? \_\_\_\_\_
10. According to verse 28 why were the leaders of the Jews really so upset with the apostle's teaching? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT**

See Acts 2:38. If the Jews had been able to hear this message with their hearts would they have been so angry?