

LESSON PLAN

CORNELIUS CONVERTED

Acts 10:1 – 11:18

Lesson Memory Verse: Isaiah 55:6 - "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."

Lesson Aim: Tell the children to seek the Lord for salvation while He still may be found.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever started to play "Hide and Seek" while it was daylight and then kept on playing until it was dark? Did you notice how much harder it was to find those for whom you were seeking when it got darker? Why was it so much harder to find those that were hiding when you played at night? I'm sure you realize that the darker it got, the harder it was to see the person for whom you were seeking. This is also true in being saved. If we get deeper and deeper into sin, our spiritual minds are darkened and we cannot see spiritual truths so clearly. Our memory verse speaks about this regarding being saved from our sins. Let's look at it.

HE (for Authority): (Have everyone read Isaiah 55:6 from their Bibles.) This verse tells us that we are to seek the Lord. That is a command from God. He will never give us a command that we cannot obey. He expects us to seek Him while He may be found. This suggests that there will be a time when He cannot be found. Now we know that it is not our natural desire to seek the Lord. But when the Lord gives us a desire to seek Him, we had better do it. This desire to find Him often becomes weaker and weaker if we fail to search for Him. So we must obey His command to seek Him while He may be found. We are told to call upon Him while He is near. This suggests that there will be a time when He will seem far away, if we do not call on Him while He is near.

Do you know why we are to seek the Lord? Yes, we should seek the Lord for salvation. The next verse in Isaiah says, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7). What should we say to the Lord when we call on Him? Yes, we should ask Him to save us from our sins (Rom 10:13). When He saves us, we will be near Him always.

When we first hear about Jesus and how He died on the cross to save us, it is quite easy to find the Lord and be saved. But it is much harder to find Him if we keep on hearing about Him, but do not receive Him as our Savior. Soon it is just like playing "Hide and Seek" in the dark and it will be almost impossible to find Him. He will take away the desire to find Him and to call upon Him for salvation. Then you will be lost and on the road that goes to the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:11-15). That is the warning that our memory verse gives to us: "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near" (Isaiah 55:6).

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In today's lesson we will see that Cornelius, an important Roman captain, sought the Lord and called upon Him the first time that he heard about His salvation.

I. Asking - Acts 10:1-6

Cornelius "prayed to God always" (10:2). He did not know how to be saved, but he "feared God with all his house." He was a devout man and showed his sincerity by giving much money to the people (10:2). One day when he was praying and fasting, God honored him by sending an angel to give him the answer to his prayers (10:3-4, 30-31). God had put a desire in him to be saved and Cornelius was earnestly seeking the Lord while He could be found. The angel gave Cornelius specific instructions on how to find Peter, who would tell him what he needed to know on how to be saved (10:5-6, 32)

WE: If we want God to show us how to be saved, we must be sincere when we pray to Him. If we keep on asking for His help, He will send someone who will help us to be saved.

II. Seeking - Acts 10:7-23; 11:1-12

As soon as the angel left him, Cornelius sent two of his servants and a faithful soldier to seek and find Peter in Joppa so they could bring him back to his home and tell him how to be saved. Cornelius was so certain that Peter would come with this good news that he got busy seeking his relatives and his close

LESSON PLAN

friends to come to his house to hear what Peter had to tell them about God's salvation. In the meantime, while these three men were seeking for Peter in Joppa, God prepared Peter to go to Caesarea to visit Cornelius. It was not easy for Peter to visit someone that was not a Jew. The Jews had a strict law that a Jew was not to go into the house of a Gentile and never to eat with a Gentile. But God made it clear to Peter that he was not to consider Cornelius and his invited guest to be unclean. They were not saved yet, but they had the right attitude toward God. They were searching for Him and they would soon find Him. Since a holy angel from God could enter the house of Cornelius, certainly it would be all right for Peter to go into his house. When the three men found Peter and asked him to go back with them and tell Cornelius about God's salvation, Peter was ready to go and he went back with them.

Peter brought six Jewish men with him to be witnesses of all that would happen. These men would be needed when Peter had to explain to the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem why he went in Cornelius's house (11:1-12).

WE: We must pray for salvation, but that is not enough. We must also seek for it. We need to read the Bible to find out what God has said about salvation. That may mean we will need to find someone that knows the Bible and is able to show us how we can be saved.

III. Finding - Acts 10:24-48; 11:13-18

Cornelius called his relatives and friends to his house to hear what Peter had to say about salvation (10:24). When he saw Peter coming, he was so impressed that he fell down and worshipped him (10:25). Peter corrected him and lifted him back to his feet. Then Cornelius told Peter why he had called for him and said they were ready to hear what God had commanded him to say to them (10:33). Peter then told them that Jesus was the only One Who could save them because:

- A. His works were perfect (10:38-39).
- B. He died for them (10:39).
- C. He arose for them (10:40-41).
- D. He will judge them (10:42).
- E. He will save those who believe in Him (10:43).

When they heard this message by Peter, Cornelius and his invited guests believed and they were given the gift of the Holy Spirit just as the Jews had received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The outward demonstration of the Holy Spirit amazed Peter and the six Jewish men (10:44-46). Now they knew that Gentiles could be saved just like they were saved. Then these new Gentile believers were baptized in the name of the Lord to give open witness that they trusted in Jesus for salvation (10:47-48). Yes, Cornelius and his friends found God's salvation by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior.

Peter and his six Jewish men had to explain what happened in Caesarea when they got to Cornelius' house. Cornelius told them the angel had instructed him to call for Peter and he would tell them what they needed to know to be saved. So Peter preached the Gospel to these Gentile people and when they believed his message, the Spirit came upon them as He had come upon the Jews at Pentecost. When the Jewish leaders heard that report, they had to admit that God treated both Jews and Gentiles alike (11:13-18)

WE: We need to be saved by believing that Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the dead to share His life with all who trust in Him. There is no other way to be saved from our sins and have eternal life (Acts 4:12).

BE (for Action): Do you want to be saved like Cornelius? If you do, you must sincerely believe what Peter preached to Cornelius and his invited guests about Jesus Christ. If you believe on God's Son and what He did for you on the cross, you will not perish in Hell, but you will have everlasting life (Jn 3:16). Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Are you ready to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior today? He is ready to save you now!! I am ready and willing to help you find the Lord Jesus Christ. We can do it right after the class is dismissed. (Pray for the children to seek the Lord while He may be found.)