

Peter's Vision

Storyteller: *Hold out Peter so the children can see him.* After Jesus ascended into Heaven, and the Holy Spirit had come to His disciples, the apostles travelled through many countries. One

day when the Apostle Peter was in the town of Joppa and was praying, and fell sound asleep, he had a vision. *Stand Peter close to you and pick up the sheet full of unclean animals.*

Acts 11:1-18

The apostles and the followers in Judea heard that Gentiles had accepted God's message. So when Peter came to Jerusalem, some of the Jewish followers started arguing with him. They wanted Gentile followers to be circumcised, and they said, "You stayed in the homes of Gentiles, and you even ate with them!"

Then Peter told them exactly what had happened:

"I was in the town of Joppa and was praying when I fell sound asleep and had a vision. I saw heaven open, and something like a huge sheet held by its four corners came down to me. When I looked in it, I saw animals, wild beasts, snakes, and birds. I heard a voice saying to me, "Peter, get up! Kill these and eat them."

"But I said, "Lord, I can't do that! I've never taken a bite of anything that is unclean and not fit to eat."

The voice from heaven spoke to me again, "When God says that something can be used for food, don't say it isn't fit to eat." This happened three times before it was all taken back into heaven.

Suddenly three men from Caesarea stood in front of the house where I was staying. The Holy Spirit told me to go with them and not to worry. Then six of the Lord's followers went with me to the home of a man who told us that an angel had appeared to him. The angel had ordered him to send to Joppa for someone named Simon Peter. Then Peter would tell him how he and everyone in his house could be saved.

After I started speaking, the Holy Spirit was given to them, just as the Spirit had been given to us at the beginning. 16 I remembered that the Lord had said, "John baptized with water, but you will

Lower down the "sheet" by strings, until it rests on the ground between Peter and the children. Peter saw heaven open, and something like a huge sheet held by its four corners came down to me. When he looked in it, he saw animals, wild beasts, snakes, and birds.

A voice said, "Peter, get up! Kill these and eat them." *Turn Peter so that his back is to the sheet.* Peter said, "Lord, I can't do that! I've never taken a bite of anything filthy." Peter was a Jew, and the Jews believed that these kinds of animals were filthy and not fit to eat. The voice said, "When God purifies something, don't call it filthy." *Turn Peter back to face the sheet.*

The voice said a second time, "Peter, get up! Kill these and eat them." *Turn Peter so that his back is to the sheet.* Peter said, "Lord, I can't do that! I've never taken a bite of anything filthy" The voice said, "When God purifies something, don't call it filthy." *Turn Peter back to face the sheet.*

The voice said a third time, "Peter, get up! Kill these and eat them." *Turn Peter so that his back is to the sheet.* Peter said, "Lord, I can't do that! I've never taken a bite of anything filthy" The voice said, "When God purifies something, don't call it filthy." *Turn Peter back to face the sheet.*

Suddenly some people came to the house. They were sent by an officer named Cornelius. The holy Spirit told Peter to go with them, so they all went to Cornelius' home to tell him how he and everyone in his house could be saved. Even though Cornelius was a Roman, Peter went into his house, because he

Story Materials

- Peter (in a stand)
- hankkerchief containing unclean animals

Tray, basket or shallow open box to hold the story

be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” God gave those Gentiles the same gift that he gave us when we put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. So how could I have gone against God?

When they heard Peter say this, they stopped arguing and started praising God. They said, “God has now let Gentiles turn to him, and he has given life to them!”

remembered: “When God purifies something, don’t call it filthy.” And as Peter spoke to Cornelius' household, the Holy Spirit was given to them, just as the Spirit had been given to the Apostles on Pentecost.