

Sunday School

Fair Dinkum Faithful Families

Session 4	Welcome others & share good news	Acts 10	Mission through community
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In small groups: Knock Knock jokes

OR

Large Group game: parachute/sheet and stuffed toy animals

Place a collection of stuffed toys on a large sheet. Gather the group around the outside of the sheet, with each person holding on around the edge of the sheet.

Gently coach the group in raising the sheet and lowering it.

Next let two people on opposite sides of the circle are designated as “Captains” - one for each side. The Captains choose/nominate a toy each. The aim of the game then is for one side/half to try to flip the other team’s toy off and keep their own on and vice versa. If more than three other toys come off the sheet before the nominated toys, both teams forfeit. Choose another two captains, and continue.



Unusual Foods Junior Master Chef

Introduce this saying something like:

“Today we are going to have our very own Junior Master Chef, in which you get to cook something and the leaders are going to eat it. The aim here is to create a really unique sandwich, and our three leader judges will eat the sandwich. We’ve given you a variety of filling options, which you can combine as creatively as you like.”

Choose 3 contestants - set them going on their sandwich making. As they put their sandwiches together, highlight the different ingredients they are using. Include in your banter the following information:

“If you are concerned or surprised by the foods that are going into these sandwiches, you aren’t alone. In the times of the Bible, the Jewish people had strict rules about what to eat and not to eat. The Romans, who had invaded and taken over their country, ate lots of foods the Jewish people didn’t eat. Here are some examples: rats, owls, bats, eagles – all could be eaten by the Romans, but the Jews wouldn’t touch them. How would you feel about turning up to dinner and being offered roasted rat?”

Props/Equipment

3 aprons, chopping boards, spreading knives, bread, spreads, sauces and odd food items.

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Content

Introduce this with something like:

"This story is all about the family eating: Each person will get a bit of the story and something yummy to eat that helps us remember that part of the story."

¹In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, who was the captain of a group of soldiers called "The Italian Unit." ²Cornelius was a very religious man. He worshiped God, and so did everyone else who lived in his house.

Red Jelly Baby 'roman soldiers'



He had given a lot of money to the poor and was always praying to God.



Choc Gold Coins

³One afternoon at about three o'clock, Cornelius had a vision. He saw an angel from God coming to him and calling him by name. ⁴Cornelius was surprised and stared at the angel. Then he asked, "What is this all about?" The angel answered, "God has heard your prayers and knows about your gifts to the poor. ⁵Now send some men to Joppa for a man named Simon Peter. ⁶He is visiting with Simon the leather maker, who lives in a house near the sea." ⁷After saying this, the angel left.

Fluffy Marshmallow Pillows (or 'Dream' chocolate)



Cornelius called in two of his servants and one of his soldiers who worshiped God. ⁸He explained everything to them and sent them off to Joppa.

3 red Jelly Babies servant/soldiers



⁹The next day about noon these men were coming near Joppa. Peter went up on the roof of the house to pray ¹⁰and became very hungry. While the food was being prepared, he fell sound asleep and had a vision.

'Dream' chocolate) or Fluffy Marshmallow Pillows



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¹¹He saw heaven open, and something came down like a huge sheet held up by its four corners. ¹²In it were all kinds of animals, snakes, and birds. ¹³A voice said to him, "Peter, get up! Kill these and eat them." ¹⁴But Peter said, "Lord, I can't do that! I've never eaten anything that is unclean and not fit to eat." ¹⁵The voice spoke to him again, "When God says that something can be used for food, don't say it isn't fit to eat." ¹⁶This happened three times before the sheet was suddenly taken back to heaven.

'Animal' lollies
(including snakes)



¹⁷Peter was still wondering what all of this meant, when the men sent by Cornelius came and stood at the gate. They had found their way to Simon's house ¹⁸and were asking if Simon Peter was staying there.

Square biscuit 'gate'



The next morning, Peter and some of the Lord's followers in Joppa left with the men who had come from Cornelius. ²⁴The next day they arrived in Caesarea where Cornelius was waiting for them. He had also invited his relatives and close friends.

A zip lock bag with enough Jelly babies for everyone – perhaps 10 or 12.

²⁵When Peter arrived, Cornelius greeted him. Then he knelt at Peter's feet and started worshiping him. ²⁶But Peter took hold of him and said, "Stand up! I am nothing more than a human."

²⁷As Peter entered the house, he was still talking with Cornelius. Many people were there, ²⁸and Peter said to them, "You know that we Jews are not allowed to have anything to do with other people. But God has shown me that he doesn't think anyone is unclean or unfit.

Now I am certain that God treats all people alike. ³⁵God is pleased with everyone who worships him and does right, no matter what nation they come from. ³⁶This is the same message that God gave to the people of Israel, when he sent Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, to offer peace to them.



Share these out as you hear the rest of the text.

Peter is learning that God wants the good news shared in all kinds of households and families.

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Consider

Animal biscuits (In small groups)

Give each small group some pre-made cookie dough and some animal shape cutters. Give each person a piece of alfoil to place their biscuit shapes on. Once the variety of cookies are cut, you can either cook them immediately and serve them for morning tea, encouraging the children to share and serve the wider church community, or send the cookie home uncooked to be cooked at home and shared with neighbours.



Consequence

Prayer menu:

Use the template of the prayer menu (see appendix), which suggests prayers for all kinds of different people, who are all part of God's family.

If you have time, stick magazine picture cut outs of different people and different foods around the border of the menu.



Prayer Menu

**Pray for people
who...**

Speak differently

Look different

Believe in different gods

Are rich or poor or inbetween

Can't get a job, or have to work too hard

Live where it's hot or cold or inbetween

Are sick or healthy

Are young or old

Are girls or boys

Prefer sport or music or reading

Live in the city or country

Are in big families or have no family

God treats all people alike...

He loves them all.

AMEN

