

Note: The Baptism of Cornelius and his household opens a new chapter in the history of Christianity. For the first time, Gentiles accept the gospel and become full members of the Church. Peter, as “pope,” becomes aware of his responsibility to foster the evangelization of the Gentiles. The event marks a new awakening for him. When he returns to his Jewish-Christian community in Jerusalem, they will disapprovingly confront him about consorting with Gentiles.

1. In Caesarea Maritima, a seaside town and Roman port about 30 miles north of Joppa, we meet Cornelius, who was described by the Jews as a “God-fearer,” which meant he worshipped Yahweh but was not fully converted to Judaism.
 - a. What was Cornelius’ position with respect to Rome? (Acts 10:1)
 - b. How did he treat the Jewish community in Caesarea? (Acts 10:2, 22)
 - c. What were some characteristics of his spirituality? (Acts 10:2)
2. What was Cornelius told to do in his vision? (Acts 10:3-6)
3. Peter also had a vision in which he saw heaven opened, and something descending like a great sheet let down by four corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and birds.
 - a. What 3 things was Peter told to do? (Acts 10:13)
 - b. What was Peter’s response? (Acts 10:14)
 - c. What was the new teaching the voice spelled out about foods? (Acts 10:15-16)
4. While Peter was struggling with trying to make sense of his vision, what did the Spirit give Peter? (Acts 10:19-20)
5. When Peter arrived at Caesarea, he was met by Cornelius and his household.
 - a. What was Cornelius’ reaction upon meeting Peter? (Acts 10:25)
 - b. What was Peter’s response? (Acts 10:26)
 - c. Why was it unusual for Peter to enter the house of Cornelius? (Acts 10:28)
 - d. Why did Peter speak to all the people in Cornelius’ house? (Acts 10:33)
6. Peter puts together the trance he experienced and the story of Cornelius’ visit from the angel. (Acts 10:30-31) How does Peter express his new awareness of God’s plan? (Acts 10:34-36)
7. As Peter was talking to Cornelius’ household about Jesus, the Holy Spirit fell upon those who were listening. (Acts 10:44)
 - a. What was one of the signs of the Holy Spirit’s presence in the house of Cornelius? (Acts 10:46)
 - b. Of what similar experience would this remind Peter? (Acts 2:4-6)
 - c. What was the reaction of the circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter? (Acts 10:45)
8. In what two ways does Peter show his union with Cornelius and his household? (Acts 10:47-49)