

## Children and families talk for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Hello everyone, and Happy New Year!

Today we're going to read from the book of Acts, which is a book all about what the first Christians got up to and some of their amazing adventures! Our bible reading today comes from Acts 10 verses 34 to 43, and it is where Peter has been told by the Holy Spirit in a vision to go and visit a Roman army officer called Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian regiment. Cornelius had had a vision too, where an angel from God spoke to him and told him to fetch Simon Peter to his house. The reading starts from where Simon Peter is speaking to Cornelius.

### **Acts 10: 34-43**

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak: "I really understand now that to God every person is the same. <sup>35</sup> God accepts anyone who worships him and does what is right. It is not important what country a person comes from. <sup>36</sup> You know that God has sent his message to the people of Israel. That message is the Good News that peace has come through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Lord of all people! <sup>37</sup> You know what has happened all over Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached to the people about baptism. <sup>38</sup> You know about Jesus from Nazareth. God made him the Christ by giving him the Holy Spirit and power. You know how Jesus went everywhere doing good. He healed those who were ruled by the devil, for God was with Jesus. <sup>39</sup> We saw all the things that Jesus did in Judea and in Jerusalem. But they killed him by nailing him to a cross. <sup>40</sup> Yet, on the third day, God raised Jesus to life and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> But he was not seen by all the people. Only the witnesses that God had already chosen saw him, and we are those witnesses. We ate and drank with him after he was raised from death. <sup>42</sup> He told us to preach to the people and to tell them that he is the one whom God chose to be the judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> Everyone who believes in Jesus will be forgiven. God will forgive his sins through Jesus. All the prophets say this is true."

Let's talk about our bible reading:

(Using small figures)

- I am a meat eater, can I be a christian?
- I don't go to church on Sunday, can I be a Christian?
- I like wearing pink, ""
- I don't like meat ""
- I don't have much money
- I'm a child
- I can't read yet
- I have a disability

- I am old
- I live in another country

Jesus' disciples were learning that the message of good news about Jesus was not just for Jews, as they had grown up believing, but for everyone! Sometimes we can be prejudiced against other people, which means we pre-judge them based on our own experiences or learning, and we make decisions about who we like and who we talk to. But God wants us all to be a part of the family of God, no matter who we are, where we live, or anything that sets us apart. Let's be generous in sharing our faith this year with all we meet, in any way that we can.

Let's talk to God now:

Lord God,

You are a generous and wonderful God, forgiving and loving all,

Thankyou God.

Help us to share our faith with all those we meet in any way that we can, whether it's an encouraging smile, a helping hand, an invitation to a church event, or some loving words. Help us not to pre-judge people, but to have a warm open heart as you do. Amen.

**And let's say the grace together:**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

The love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

Be with us all, now and forever more,

Amen.

Here is the children's activity page from Roots: [activity-sheet-8-january-2023.pdf](https://rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-8-january-2023.pdf)  
([rootsontheweb.com](https://rootsontheweb.com))