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Next Weeks Lesson: "And So Were the Churches Established in the Faith" ([Acts 15:36-18:22](#); [1](#) and [2 Thessalonians](#))

Today's Lesson: "God Is No Respector of Persons" ([Acts 10-14](#); [15:1-35](#))

1. Peter learns in a vision that the gospel should be preached to the Gentiles. ([Acts 10:1-11:18](#))

- A. What kind of man was Cornelius? ([Acts 10:1-2](#), [Acts 10:30-31](#)) What was the angel's message to Cornelius? ([Acts 10:3-6](#)) How did Cornelius react to this message? ([Acts 10:7-8](#), [Acts 10:33](#)) Why is it important to act immediately on instructions or promptings from God?
- B. While Cornelius's men were traveling to Joppa, Peter had a vision ([Acts 10:9-16](#)). What did Peter see in this vision? ([Acts 10:11-12](#)) What was Peter told to do? ([Acts 10:13](#)) Why did Peter resist? ([Acts 10:14](#)) How did the Lord respond to Peter's concern? ([Acts 10:15-16](#))
- C. As he met with Cornelius, Peter understood his dream. What did it mean? ([Acts 10:28](#), [Acts 10:34-35](#)) Why were the Gentiles represented in the dream by unclean animals?
- D. After Peter explained his dream, he began teaching Cornelius and his friends. What did he teach in his first sermon to them? ([Acts 10:36-43](#)) What happened as Peter was preaching? ([Acts 10:44](#), [Acts 10:46](#)) Why did this convince Peter that Cornelius and his friends should be baptized? ([Acts 10:47-48](#); [Acts 11:15-17](#))
- E. How did some Church members react when they heard that Peter had been teaching the gospel to Gentiles? ([Acts 11:1-3](#)) Why were these members upset?
- F. How did the Church members' opinions change after Peter told them about his vision and his experience with Cornelius? ([Acts 11:4-18](#)) What should we do when we receive new instructions from our Church leaders, even if we initially dislike the instructions or find them difficult to understand? ([John 7:17](#); [2 Nephi 28:30](#); [D&C 6:11](#), [D&C 6:14-15](#))
- G. Why was Peter the one who received the revelation to teach the gospel to the Gentiles? Who receives revelation today for the entire Church? Why is it important to have only one person who receives revelation for the entire Church? ([D&C 43:2-6](#))

2. Peter is miraculously freed from prison. ([Acts 12](#))

- A. King Herod killed the Apostle James, then cast Peter into prison and placed him under heavy guard ([Acts 12:1-4](#)). How did members of the Church respond to Peter's imprisonment? ([Acts 12:5](#)) How can our prayers help the prophet and other Church leaders today? ([D&C 43:12](#); [D&C 93:51](#); [D&C 107:22](#))

President Joseph F. Smith stated, "There never should be a day pass but all of the people composing the Church should lift up their voices in prayer to the Lord to sustain his servants" (*Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. [1939], 223).

- B. How did Peter escape from prison? ([Acts 12:6-10](#)) At what other times has the Lord miraculously preserved someone's life until that person completed his or her earthly mission?
- C. What happened to King Herod after Peter's escape? ([Acts 12:21-23](#)) Compare what happened to Herod with what happened to the Church, as described in the next verse ([Acts 12:24](#)). How have you seen the Church flourish despite the efforts of some people to destroy it?

3. Saul (now known as Paul) and Barnabas preach the gospel to the Gentiles. ([Acts 13-14](#))

- A. What does the calling of Saul and Barnabas show about how Church members are called to God's service? ([Acts 13:1-3](#)) What experiences have helped you know that Church callings are inspired by the Spirit?
- B. The rulers of the synagogue in Antioch invited Paul to speak in the Sabbath service ([Acts 13:14-15](#)). What was Paul's main message? ([Acts 13:23-31](#), [Acts 13:38-41](#)) How did the Gentiles in Antioch respond to the missionaries and their message? ([Acts 13:42-44](#), [Acts 13:48](#)) Why did some of the Jews persecute Paul and Barnabas? ([Acts 13:45-47](#))
- C. How did the people in Lystra react when Paul healed the crippled man? (See [Acts 14:8-13](#). Explain that Jupiter and Mercurius were false gods the people worshiped.) How did Paul and Barnabas respond to this praise and attention? (See [Acts 14:14-18](#).) Point out that true teachers of the word of God always seek to give God the glory and turn attention away from themselves. How have you seen this attitude demonstrated by today's Church leaders?
- D. In each city Paul and Barnabas visited, they found people eager to accept the gospel, but they also found people who persecuted them and stirred up others against the Church ([Acts 13:43-45](#), [Acts 13:50](#); [Acts 14:1-6](#), [Acts 14:19](#)). Why did Paul and Barnabas return to each of the cities even though they had been persecuted there? ([Acts 14:21-23](#)) What can we do to support new members of our ward or branch?

President Gordon B. Hinckley remarked: “With the ever increasing number of converts, we must make an increasingly substantial effort to assist them as they find their way. Every one of them needs three things: a friend, a responsibility, and nurturing with ‘the good word of God’ ([Moroni 6:4](#)). It is our duty and opportunity to provide these things” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1997, 66; or [Ensign, May 1997, 47](#)).



4. The Apostles determine that Gentiles do not need to keep the law of Moses. ([Acts 15:1-35](#))



- A.** What dispute did Paul and Barnabas go to Jerusalem to resolve? ([Acts 15:1-2](#); see also [Bible Dictionary, “Circumcision,” 646](#). Circumcision was symbolic of the entire law of Moses. A circumcised man was one who kept the law. Although Jesus Christ had fulfilled the law of Moses, some Jewish Christians still practiced it and wanted Gentile converts to practice it as well.) How was the dispute resolved?
- B.** How do the events described in [Acts 15:6-31](#) demonstrate the pattern by which decisions about Church policy and practices are made?
- (1) Church leaders meet to consider the matter ([verse 6](#)).
 - (2) They discuss the matter thoroughly ([verses 7-21](#)).
 - (3) They make a decision in accordance with the Lord’s will ([verses 19-21](#)).
 - (4) The Holy Ghost confirms that the decision is correct ([verse 28](#)).
 - (5) The decision is announced to the Saints for sustaining ([verses 22-31](#)).