

PETER AND CORNELIUS

Acts 10:1 to 11:18



One afternoon Peter went up on a housetop to pray. Suddenly he seemed to see a great, flat square (the Bible says that it was like a great sheet) that came slowly down from the sky. In it were all kinds of animals and birds. Peter was hungry, and a voice said, "Rise, Peter; kill, and eat." But Peter answered, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean." By that Peter meant that he had always obeyed the Jewish laws which told just what kind of food should be eaten. But the voice spoke again, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." This happened three times, and then the sheet vanished as it had come.

Over in Cæsarea lived Cornelius, a good, kind man who was a soldier and the captain of a band of one hundred brave soldiers. The afternoon before Peter's dream, an angel had come to Cornelius and had, told him that God was pleased with the good deeds he had done, and had remembered them and his prayers; and that Cornelius was to send to Joppa for a man named