

# Family Worship Devotion

## Bethany Community Church | August 16, 2020

### Introduction

Do you like to travel to new places? One of my favorite things to do is to go on an adventure to a place I haven't been too before. I love to do this because I get to see, taste, smell, and be present in a place surrounded by all new things, people, and joy.

I had the privilege of home staying in 2 different countries. Homestayng is a little different than just traveling to a new place. Homestayng is where you get to stay in someone else's home. They usually feed you, take you around to see all new places, and bring you into their life! The picture on the right is the 2nd time I got to homestay with someone. I got to live in Guatemala with a family and volunteer at a school teaching english.



Homestayng in Guatemala was not all smiles like in the picture above. It was very difficult for me because I knew very little spanish. I tried learning on an app a couple months before I left but I quickly learned that the spanish I was learning was a different dialect than the dialect they spoke. Regardless of the little small obstacles like the language barrier at the end of the day when we would have a time of worship or go to church or anything along those lines, we had the same goal. I understood what songs they were singing and I could sing along in english based off of the chords being played. I understood what scripture they were reading and could read along based off of the bible. At the end of the day we all had the same goal to love Jesus and to follow him together. So, just like Peter who brought the Jews and Gentiles together to worship, let us invite our friends and neighborhoods to worship the one true God together.

*Lishi Sander (aka Lishi Chun), Bethany Green Lake*

## Story & Questions

Two Visions and One People (READ Acts 10:1-41 in the sections listed below):  
As you read this story, consider it in three different scenes.

### Scene 1 - Read Acts 10:1-8 - Cornelius' Vision

- What are things we learn about Cornelius? (He's a powerful Roman soldier, he's not a Jew, but he "fears God" - which means he's a devout Gentile who is seeking after God, and he's generous and prayerful)
- What was the vision he received and who did he receive it from? (An angel called him by name and told him to send for Peter, with lots of details of where to find Peter!)
- Since the angel doesn't tell Cornelius WHY he is to send for Peter, what does Cornelius' obedience show us about a life of faith? (Sometimes we only know the very next step that God is calling us to in our lives, but still we trust him, one step at a time.)

### Scene 2 - Read Acts 10:9-23 - Peter's Vision

- What are things we know about Peter in this story? (Well, from earlier in Acts we know he is one of Jesus' first and closest disciples, and in this story he is HUNGRY! And he also had a vision on a rooftop.)
- What was the vision he received and how did he respond? (Since Jews had all kinds of rules about what was clean/unclean and what we should eat/not eat, God in this vision showed Peter that he needed a new understanding of clean/unclean.)
- How was Peter obedient to the Spirit's call in his life? (Since Peter had received a new insight on God making formerly "unclean" thing "clean," Peter welcomed these Gentile strangers into his house overnight and then went with them back to Cornelius the next day.)

Scene 3 - Read Acts 10:24-41 - One people, since God shows no favoritism  
As Peter is welcomed into Cornelius' house, they both share about their visions and Peter declares that the old rules that prevented Jews and Gentiles from being friends were being changed by the love of Jesus! And the church became open to ALL people who love Jesus and want to follow him together.

- What do these words of Peter ("that God does not show favoritism") mean for us today? As a family, think about three different ways this

could encourage us to NOT look at others as different, but instead as people we can become friends with.

*Pastor Chris Lyons, Bethany Green Lake*

## **Prayer**

Gather together and go around the table and have everyone pray out loud. End with this prayer: "Dear Lord, we want to thank you for allowing us to say yes to your mission that you have called us to. Please give us an open mind and open hearts to receive the mission you want us to say yes to. Amen."

*Lishi Sander, Bethany Green Lake*

## **Activities**



Make Welcome Signs: Using paper, markers, stickers, crayons, or whatever you have lying around your home already to make signs to welcome people to your home, like Cornelius welcomed Peter!

Friendship bracelets: Use string, yarn, or even shoelaces to braid or place beads (beads can be pony beads, wooden beads, or even cut up straws, penne or macaroni pasta--get creative!) on the string and make friendship bracelets, and give them to others as a reminder that God wants us to be friends with everyone!

*Kaitlin Prichard, Bethany Green Lake*