



# Lesson 21

## See What God Sees

### Large Group Lesson & Games

<p><b>Bible Story</b></p> <p>Peter Sees from God’s Perspective</p> <p><i>Acts 11:1-18</i></p>	<p><b>Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Bible</li><li>• A parachute or a bedsheet</li><li>• A handful of stuffed animals</li><li>• A beach ball</li></ul>
<p><b>Bible Verse</b></p> <p>“So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view.”</p> <p><i>2 Corinthians 5:16a, New Living Translation</i></p>	
<p><b>Key Teaching Point</b></p> <p>See others the way God sees them.</p>	



# Large Group Lesson

(15 Minutes)

After Jesus went to heaven, Peter and other disciples of Jesus thought that only the people who were called Jews could be saved by Jesus and welcomed into God's family. They thought they were better than people who were not Jewish. They didn't think that other people could be saved or be a part of God's family.

One day, God gave Peter a dream.

Ask students to grab an end of the sheet or parachute and spread out so they are in a circle.

This is what Peter saw...

Ask students to hold the parachute as high up in the air as possible and then close their eyes. As their eyes are closed, toss some stuffed animals into the sheet. Then after students have opened their eyes again, instruct them to lower the sheet slowly, working together to make sure nothing falls off the edge. Then, instruct students to sit down, placing the sheet on the floor and leaving the animals in the middle.

Peter saw a large sheet being let down from heaven, and it came down to where he was. When he peered into the sheet, he saw four-footed animals of the earth: reptiles, birds, beasts. Then God said to Peter: "Get up and eat all of the animals."

This shocked Peter. "But God, the Jewish law says not to eat food that is unclean. If I ate all these animals, I would not only be eating clean animals, I'd be eating unclean animals too!"

So God said to Peter: "Do not call something unclean if I have made it clean. Both kinds of animals are okay to eat now."

Peter woke up and wondered, "What does this dream mean?" Peter was about to find out...

A man named Cornelius, who was not a Jew, was given a dream by God as well. In his dream, an angel appeared to tell Cornelius to send some men to find a man named Simon Peter. Now Cornelius was not a Jew, but he feared God, prayed often and gave generously to the poor. Even though he'd done all of these good things, Cornelius was not saved, he had not heard about the good news of Jesus yet.

The men arrived and asked Peter to tell Cornelius about Jesus. Peter wasn't sure what to do, for Cornelius was not a Jew. But then Peter remembered the dream God gave him, so he went to Cornelius's home and told him all



**about Jesus. Cornelius and his entire household believed in Jesus and were baptized that very day. They were made clean; their sins were forgiven, and they were welcomed into God’s family.**

Close in a discussion, and then dismiss students to small groups:

- **What new thing was Peter learning about his old ways?** (Jesus died to clean everyone of their sins, not just one group of people. God accepts those who have faith and trust in Jesus in their hearts.)
- **How did Peter respond when God showed him this new thing?** (He shared Jesus with Cornelius and his household and invited them into God’s family by making them clean through baptism.)



# Large Group Games

(20-25 Minutes)

## SCATTER BEACH BALL

**Materials:** A Beach Ball

Begin by having all players stand close to the center of the playing area. Throw the ball into the air over the players. Whoever grabs the ball first can take three steps in any direction and has five seconds to throw it. They may either throw it up into the air again or try to tag another player. If they tag someone with the ball, the player sits down. If they catch it, the player who threw must sit down. Anyone sitting down can get back up if they are able to grab the ball (without moving from their seated spot) and tag another standing player. There are no teams, and no “winners” in this game, although you may play until there are only a few remaining, declare them “winners” and begin a new round.

## ROCK PAPER SCISSORS TOURNAMENT

**No materials needed.**

Teach students the basic instructions for Rock, Paper, Scissors. Every player must find a partner and on the count of three, they must choose the hand signal for Rock, Paper or Scissors.

Rock – Make a fist

Paper – Lay hand flat

Scissors – Make a V with index and middle finger

Then, determine which player wins that challenge. Rock beats Scissors, Scissors beats Paper, and Paper beats Rock. (If students make the same hand signal, they should try again until there is a winner.)

To play the tournament, students will pair off and complete challenges. You can have all players go on the count of three, and then instruct all the losing players to sit down or go to one side of the playing area, and all the winning players should find another winning player to be their new partner. Continue running challenges until there are only two students remaining, who will pair off to determine who is the champion.

