

To Eat or Not to Eat?

(Acts 10)

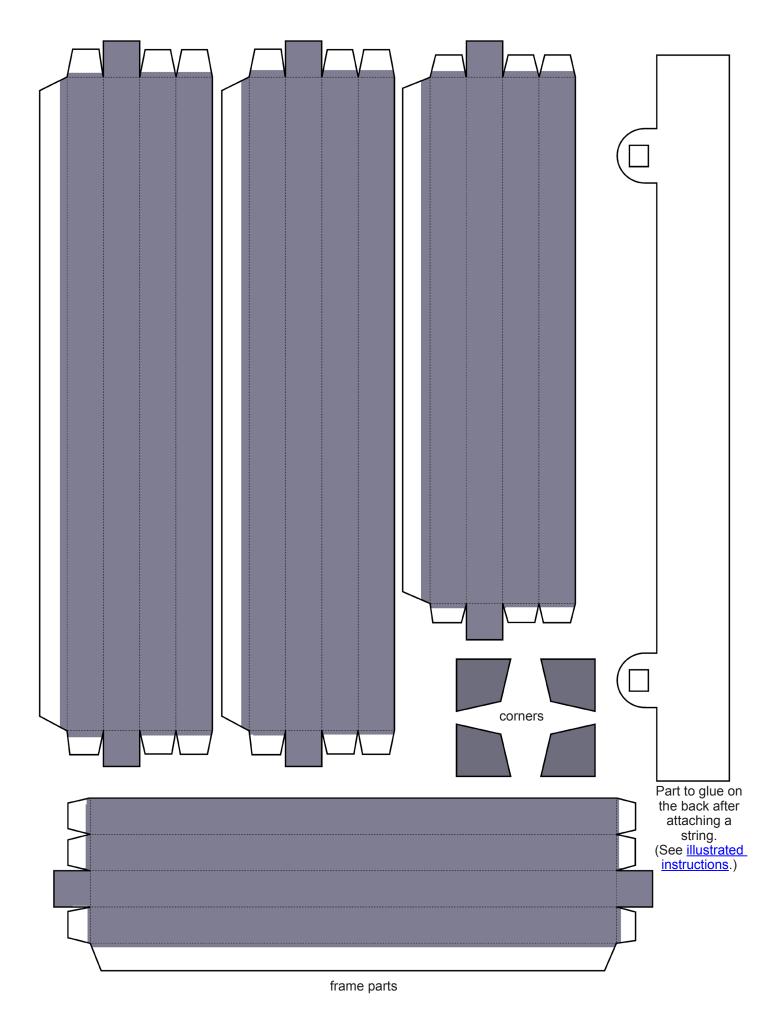
In Caesarea lived a centurion named Cornelius. Cornelius and his family believed in God, prayed often, and gave charity to the poor. One day, he had a vision of an angel that said to him, "Cornelius, God has heard your prayers and seen your gifts to the poor. Send men to Joppa, and ask for a man named Simon, whose surname is Peter. He will tell you what you must do." Right away Cornelius sent men to Joppa to find Simon Peter.

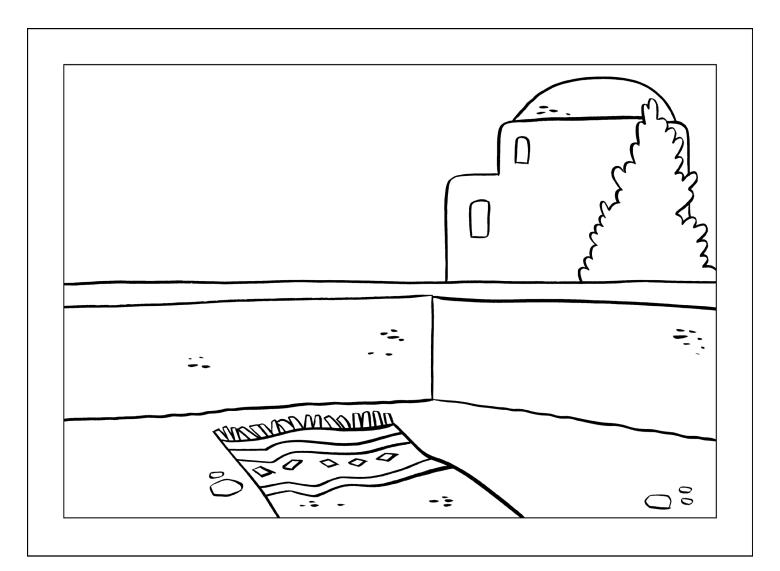
Meanwhile, Peter was on the rooftop of a house praying. He became very hungry, and had a vision of a large sheet being lowered to the earth. The sheet contained all types of animals, birds, and amphibians. Peter heard a voice say to him, "Peter, eat." Peter said, "I can't, because these are considered unclean according to the law." But the voice told him, "Don't call unholy what God has cleansed."

Soon the men arrived who Cornelius had sent, and they asked Peter to go with them. Peter knew God had told him through the vision to go with the men to Cornelius' house and tell him and his friends and family about Jesus.

Up to that point the disciples had only gone to the Jews, but now they would go to anyone who wanted to hear about Jesus, including a Roman centurion.









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