

Peter Takes the Lord Jesus Christ to Non-Jews
About 5 minutes, from Acts 10

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Peter

Angel

Cornelius

Prompter Shout a brief line and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Peter I am Peter. Hear the good news about a second Pentecost for Gentiles.
Pentecost is a Hebrew feast; Jews from many lands gather in Jerusalem.
God's Holy Spirit came to dwell in us Jewish believers
during the feast of Pentecost.

Prompter & Echoes God is dwelling in human hearts!

Peter I am praying on a rooftop in Joppa, while waiting for lunch.

Angel (*Shout sternly*) Peter! Get up!

Peter What's that? Who called me? Oh! What is happening?
A sheet has come down from heaven,
filled with all kinds of unclean animals!

Angel Kill and eat!

Peter What? I am confused. What can this voice mean?
It says to eat these unclean pigs, reptiles, buzzards and serpents!
Yuk! How can I break Moses' law and eat such non-kosher flesh?
I have never done such a thing, but God's angel is telling me to do it!

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Prompter & Echoes Kill and eat!

Peter Unknown to me, several miles away in Caesarea,
the angel also appears to Cornelius, a Roman army officer.

Angel Cornelius!

Cornelius Who is that? Sergeant of the Guard!

Prompter & Echoes An intruder!

Angel Do not fear, Cornelius. I have come from heaven with a message.
The Lord has seen your good deeds and heard your prayers.
Send to Joppa to the house of Simon the Tanner for a man named Peter.

Cornelius Yes, Sir! Right away, Sir!
I send two servants with my aide to bring the man called Peter.
I am Italian. I love pork chops and pork pepperoni on my pizza.
It is too bad my Jewish friends cannot enjoy such delicacies!

Peter Meanwhile, on the rooftop in Joppa, I am puzzling about the vision.
I hear knocking at the door. The men from Cornelius have arrived.
They ask me to go with them to Cornelius' home in Cesarea.

Prompter & Echoes But Cornelius is a gentile!

Peter Now, I understand that God's vision has prepared me for this.
I take several brothers with me, and off we go.
After a long walk, we arrive in Cesarea.
Come with me and meet Cornelius.

Cornelius The man has come. Let me greet him and his Jewish companions.
Come in, Peter. You and your friends are welcome!

Peter Shalom! Cornelius, I appreciate your gracious hospitality.
Our Jewish Law forbids us to enter non-Jews' homes
and eat unclean food. However, God showed me in a vision
that we are not to regard anyone as unclean.
Now, please tell me... Why did you send for me?

Cornelius An angel of God told me to.
My friends, relatives and I have gathered to hear what you tell us.

Peter I tell Cornelius and his friends about Jesus.
When I come to the resurrection, a wonderful thing happens.
The Holy Spirit comes upon these Gentiles!
He gives them the sign of other tongues, as he did at Pentecost,
when we proclaimed to the Jews that Christ had risen from the dead.

Prompter & Echoes Another Pentecost for Gentiles!

Peter We all rejoice.
This time those that speak in tongues are those that hear the good news,
not those that tell it, as happened in Jerusalem!

Cornelius May God be praised!

Prompter & Echoes Marvelous!

Peter Let these be baptized at once, since they also received the Holy Spirit.

Cornelius Peter, please stay a few days and teach us about Jesus.

Peter We stay, and guess what.
We Jews eat the Italians' food for the gospel's sake! It is delicious!
We enjoy it even though it is ceremonially unclean for us.
Now that God has established his new covenant, much has changed!

Prompter & Echoes Vast contrast!

Peter Jewish believers back in Jerusalem scold me for eating gentiles' food.
However, when I explain what happened, they rejoice.
How wonderful that God grants repentance that gives life to Gentiles!

Prompter & Echoes Repentance leading to life!