



PETER'S DREAM

(based on Acts 11:1-18)

To familiarize yourself with more details for this story, read it in the Bible too.

Peter was in Joppa. You may remember that Joppa is where Dorcas lived. Peter was staying with Simon. One day, Peter went to the roof of Simon's house to pray. While there, Peter became hungry. As he prayed, Peter had a dream, a most amazing dream. A large sheet came down from the sky, as if something was holding it by the four corners. As it came closer, he could look inside, where he saw all kinds of animals: donkeys, camels, sheep, goats, pigs, deer, turtles, snakes, eagles, ostriches, songbirds, and more.

Now Peter was hungry, and a voice came from heaven, "Get up, Peter, cook and eat." Peter looked at the animals in the sheet. Some were animals that he knew Jews were forbidden to eat because they were unclean. So Peter answered, "Oh no, God, I have never eaten any forbidden food and I will not do so now."

Then the voice said, "What God has made clean, you must not say is unclean."

At that moment, three people arrived at Simon's gate seeking Peter. When they told Peter that Cornelius, a Roman soldier in

Caesarea, had sent them to ask Peter to come to talk with him, Peter wasn't sure what to do. How could Peter, a Jew, go to the house of Cornelius, a non-Jew, a Gentile? Aha, now Peter's dream was beginning to make sense. The dream was God's way of letting Peter know that all that God created is good.

So Peter, the three sent by Cornelius, and friends of Peter set off for Caesarea. When they arrived, Cornelius was overjoyed. "But," asked Peter, "how did you know to find me at Simon's house?"

"In a dream, I saw an angel. The angel told me that you had a message for me, a message of good news," said Cornelius.

Peter told them about Jesus the Christ, and how Jesus showed how to live in God's way. As Peter spoke, he could see that the Holy Spirit had come to Cornelius and all his family. "Would you like to be baptized?" asked Peter.

"Yes," said Cornelius. "We want to be baptized and to follow in the way of Jesus." So Peter baptized Cornelius and all his family that day.

Later Peter went to Jerusalem to tell what had happened to the leaders of Jesus' followers there. When they heard this, they were so amazed they could not speak. Then they praised God and said, "God has given new life to everyone, not just to us."