

**Background Scripture: Acts 10:34-47**

**Print Scripture: Acts 10:34-47**

## L13 No Favorites



### REFLECT

When D'Angela and her family moved to their new home in the suburbs, they were excited to finally own their own home. Karla, a white neighbor, saw the family moving in and befriended D'Angela, who is African-American, immediately. The girls became inseparable. When you saw Karla, you saw D'Angela. But for Karla's and D'Angela's parents, it was a different story. Karla's mom kept referring to news stories that portrayed African Americans as thieves, and D'Angela's dad could not let go of how his dad was arrested after being falsely accused of robbery. This division between the parents was stressing out Karla and D'Angela. When D'Angela and Karla learned their birthdays were in the same month, they decided to have a joint birthday party. The girls planned their own party, decided on the theme, and sent everyone invitations, including their parents. The party day banner read, "LOVE ALL—FAVOR NONE!" The girls invited friends of different races. They asked their friends not to bring gifts but, instead, to bring a big dose of love and acceptance. When D'Angela and Karla thanked everyone for celebrating with them, they announced that they decided to have this party to show that loving and accepting others for

who they are, regardless of their race or where they live, is an attitude that reflects Jesus! Karla said, "We have to be careful of the cliques we form that reject some and favor others." The girls' parents joined their daughters, publicly apologizing for their behavior—and everyone hugged.

**How can you encourage your friends to treat others fairly?**



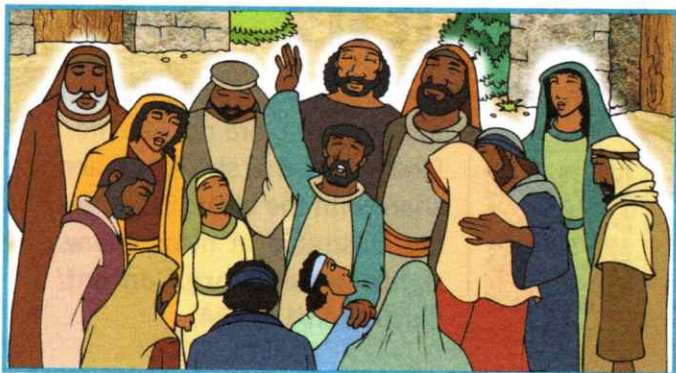
Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right." (Acts 10:34-35)





### Acts 10:34-47

**34** Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism **35** but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. **36** You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. **37** You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. **39** We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, **40** but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. **41** He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” **44** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. **45** The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. **46** For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, **47** “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”



## INTERSECT

**P**ETER, THE CENTRAL PERSON IN THE EVENTS RECORDED IN TODAY'S SCRIPTURE TEXT, WAS ALSO ONE OF JESUS' DISCIPLES. In this text, the author illustrates how God shows no favoritism. Peter, a Jew, is shown a vision from God, and that motivates him to go to Joppa—where Peter meets a Gentile named Cornelius. In verse 28, Peter proclaims that God showed him that he should not call any person unclean or unworthy. Peter shares with his listeners in Joppa that God does not play favorites. Anyone who fears God and does right is acceptable to God. Peace is only available through Jesus, who is Lord of all. The “all” means people of every race, economic background, and ethnicity. In Peter's speech, he recounts the ministry of Jesus, who went about doing good and healing the sick. Peter confirms that he was one of the eyewitnesses of everything Jesus did and that Jesus' resurrection occurred three days after He was crucified. After Jesus' resurrection, Jesus appeared to people on several different occasions. Peter concludes his speech to the Gentile listeners with the fact that Jesus, the one whom God appointed, had directed Peter and the apostles to preach the Good News. Initially, the apostles believed that the Gospel was for Jews only, but after Peter's vision, they realized they were to preach to *all* people. After Peter's speech, the Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles. Those who accepted the Good News received the Holy Spirit and were baptized. This coming of the Holy Spirit confirmed the Good News and was to be proclaimed to all people!

### Inside Out



Respond to and discuss the following statements/questions: (1) Read again Acts 10:35. What is Peter saying? (2) To whom did Jesus appear after His resurrection, according to Peter? (3) According to Acts 10:47, what is necessary for baptism?