



Sabbath Keeping Youth

It's Up to You

One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.
One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.
One sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true,
One life can make the difference,
You see, it's up to you!

Author Unknown

Prejudice is Born Out of Ignorance

Do you know what it means to be prejudice? A person who is prejudice forms an opinion based on inadequate facts and that's not fair. As an example, it would be like making a judgment about what is under a blanket without looking under the blanket. That would not be a smart thing to do. Ignorance is how prejudice is born.

The best way to fight against prejudice is to not label people. Instead of putting people in a group you think they belong to, try first showing them respect. Showing another respect means treating him/her the way you would like to be treated. It means you appreciate the qualities and characteristics of what makes that person different. Just because someone looks different or holds a different belief than you does not mean you are better. Nor does it mean you are allowed to treat them badly. Prejudice can lead to hatred and God does not want you to have hate in your heart for another person.

"If someone says, 'I love God,'
and hates his brother, he is a liar;
for he who does not love his brother
whom he has seen, how can he love
God whom he has not seen?"
(I John 4:20).



The Parents Corner

Teacher. What images does that word invoke in your mind? Do you think of someone at school, or maybe church? Do you think of yourself? Proverbs 1:8 says, "Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching." Are you making it easy for your kids to follow this verse? Your children may not learn Algebra from you, but they do learn how to live a Christ-like life. Your children will mirror your actions, words, and emotions. It's an awesome responsibility to provide an environment where your child is stimulated to live like Jesus. Deuteronomy 6:7-8 challenges you to "Impress them (*God's commandments*) on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." It's not about a class, it's about life. It's time to teach your children to be like Jesus!

There Is No Place For Prejudice

The Bible Story on the following page has two important lessons. By example your family has the opportunity to teach others about Christ's love. There is no favoritism when it comes to the gospel message about salvation. Keeping this in mind, it is a parent's job to teach their children prejudice has no place in our homes, churches, schools or communities. Prejudice blinds us to the fact that God loves all people the same.

There was strife and prejudice in the early church. The tension existed because of the relationship the Jewish Christian had with the Gentile believer. The valuable truth Peter learned from Cornelius and his family was the gospel is for everyone and a family has the ability to preach that message by example.

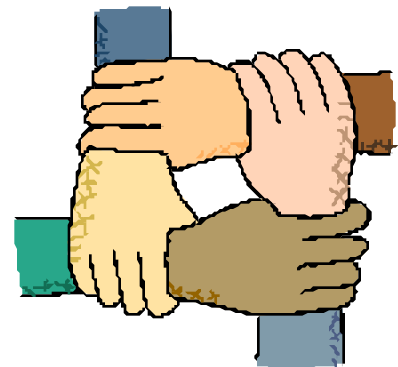
Cornelius was a man who led his family to an understanding of God. He was a man who prayed and helped those in need. He modeled respect and love for God through worship and prayer and he was a humble servant by helping those less fortunate. Cornelius was truly the spiritual leader of his family and it is evidenced through his example.

What a parent models has the biggest impact on a child's life. Take the time to evaluate your behavior. How do you conduct yourself both privately and publicly? Do your children know how committed you are to the ways of the Lord? Do they see you pray? Do you help those less fortunate in your community or only those in your church?

How does a parent teach their children not to be prejudice?

- Let your children know you love their uniqueness. They're special in their characteristics and you appreciate who they are. A child, who is self confident, tends not to be prejudice.
- Talk about the special qualities their friends and family members have. Encourage them to love and appreciate who their friends and family member are.
- Teach your children to be sensitive to the feelings of others. Helping a child to have empathy for another will help remove an attitude of prejudice.

- Children understand what is fair and unfair. Teach them prejudice is unfair.
- Make it a family rule that no one is to be teased or excluded because of his or her race, religion, gender or disability.
- Look for opportunities your children can learn to be welcoming to all individuals. This may be done through community service or activities at school such as clubs, band or sports.
- Help your children recognize prejudice by discussing what they see at the movies, television, news, and read in newspapers, and magazines. Teach them how to be critical thinkers.
- Help your child be pre-prepared with an answer when they see someone being teased or excluded. Something as simple as "Don't say that, it's hurtful." Or, "call him/her by his/her name. You wouldn't like that said of you."
- More importantly, hold yourself to the same standard you expect of your children.



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Peter and the Centurion

Acts 10:1—11:18

Cornelius was a Roman centurion (commander of 100 men) in the Roman army. He lived at Caesarea (ses-a-RE-a). He was a Gentile who worshiped and prayed to the God of the Jews. Gentile means someone who is not a Jew. In Bible times, Gentiles and Jews did not get along. Cornelius was also a man who gave money to the poor. One day an angel of the Lord appeared to him with a message from God. The angel told him God had heard his prayers and seen his good works. The angel continued to instruct him to send men to Joppa (JOP-a) find and bring back a man named Peter, who was staying in the house of Simon the tanner.

Cornelius did as he was told. The next day, before the men reached Simon's home, Peter went to the housetop to pray. God sent a vision to Peter. In the vision Peter saw the heavens open and something like a large sheet came down to earth. Inside the sheet were all kinds of animals that Jews were not permitted to eat. A voice said to Peter, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat." (Acts 10:13). Peter, who was Jewish, answered that he had never eaten anything unclean and so refused to do what he was told. The voice responded, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean" (Acts 10:15). This happened three times. The sheet was then taken back to heaven.

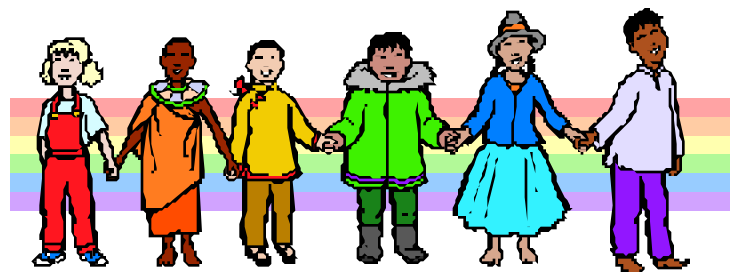
While Peter was wondering what the vision meant, the three men sent by Cornelius arrived at Peter's door. God told Peter, "Get up and go downstairs. Go with them [the three men] without doubting because I have sent them to you" (Acts 10:20). When Peter went down to see these men, they told him their master, Cornelius, was a God-fearing Gentile who wanted Peter to come and visit him. Until that time, Peter had never preached the Gospel to anyone but Jews.

When Peter arrived in Caesarea, many friends and relatives of Cornelius surrounded him. Peter and Cornelius shared their visions with one another. Peter explained it was against the law for a Jew to go to a Gentile's home, but God had shown him he shouldn't call any person "unclean." Peter, probably for the first time, understood that God does not show favoritism, but accepts everyone who worships Him and does what's right.

Peter told Cornelius, his family and all those gathered how Christ had come to earth to die for their sins so they could be forgiven. While Peter was giving the Gospel message, the Holy Spirit came over everyone listening. The Jews who were with Peter were amazed when the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles as well. The Gentiles began to speak out in other languages and praise God! Peter told them they should be baptized, and they were.

When the Jewish Christians back in Jerusalem heard the Gentiles had received the word of God, they criticized Peter. Peter explained to them all that happened and how God had given the Gentile believers the Holy Spirit even before they were baptized. When Peter's critics heard this they said, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

The Gospel message Peter gave is the same today as it was then. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). The Gospel message and salvation is not for a select few people you or others may deem appropriate to receive it. Do not be selective about who you share the Gospel with. One individual at a time, God wants His message of love to transform lives through the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Sabbath Keeping Youth

Peter was with Cornelius, his family and friends. As Peter was speaking about God, something happened. What was it?

Write the letter that follows the one given.

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S G D G N K X R O H Q H S

A
B L D N U D Q

D U D Q X N M D

O Q D R D M S



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