

## Unlikely Friendships

### Quiz

1. Someone in your class is being left out because they're seen as different by everyone else. Do you:
  - A. Avoid them too
  - B. Try to be-friend them
  - C. Ask your friends to join you in getting to know them
  
2. The person who's been unkind to you for weeks comes up and says sorry. Do you:
  - A. Tell them to leave you alone
  - B. Forgive them and try to move on
  - C. Tell them they have to make it up to you
  
3. Your best friend tells you to do something nasty to the person who's been unkind to them all term. Do you:
  - A. Do whatever they suggest to stand up for them
  - B. Refuse to do whatever they ask
  - C. Suggest that they go with you and talk to a teacher about what's been happening
  
4. Your teacher asks you to help the person in class who's been nasty to you all year. Do you:
  - A. Refuse to help them
  - B. Help them regardless of how you feel
  - C. Tell your teacher how this person has been treating you

The point behind that quiz was to get us thinking about our attitudes towards people who are different to us as well as people who have been unkind to us. There is definitely a place to stand up for ourselves, but bravery also is about other things too. Our story today looks at how Peter, one of Jesus' disciples had to be brave and offer friendship to a Roman. Israelites hated the Romans. They had taken over their land, put heavy taxes on them and enjoyed giving them a hard time.

## **Bible story**

Read Acts 10:1-8. Here we see God talking to Cornelius, a Roman centurion.

**How is Cornelius different to other Romans? (v.2)**

Read Acts 10:9-35

**Why do you think God told Peter to go to see Cornelius?**

**How do you think Peter would have felt as he was making the journey?**

**Who are the people God might want us to reach out to at school or elsewhere?**

**What does this story teach us about following Jesus?**

## **Finishing up**

Spend some time thinking about what this story means for you. Below are some ideas for prayer:

- Thank Jesus that he loves all of us and that his message is for everyone.
- Ask Jesus to show you anyone you can reach out to so they can see him in you.
- Pray for different groups of people who struggle to accept each other. Ask Jesus to show them that his message is for them all.

## **Other stuff you could do in the week**

Have a look at the following Bible verses. There are short passages for each day of the week. You could jot down some thoughts in response to them.

'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.' (Romans 12:3)

Jesus' words: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

Jesus' words: "Blessed are the peacemakers." Matthew 5:9

'Do not gloat when your enemy falls;  
when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice.' Proverbs 24:17

'Those who follow Jesus must not show favouritism.' James 2:1

'Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.' Luke 5:16

'For the word of the Lord is right and true;  
he is faithful in all he does.' Psalm 33:4