

WILD ZONE

FISHING TOURS UNLIMITED

10



OYSTER CATCHERS

They all had to get up very early because the ship sailed at 3 am! Uncle Maui had taken Torrance and Cooper to Bluff, a port at the very south of the South Island. A Maori family sail into Foveaux Strait and shelter near Stewart Island to catch oysters. It was still dark when they lowered two dredges to scrape along the bottom of the sea. Hydraulic winches pulled up a catch of all kinds of fish. They all wore thick gloves to sort it. They kept the lovely Bluff oysters and put them into bins. The rest of the fish were thrown back into the sea.

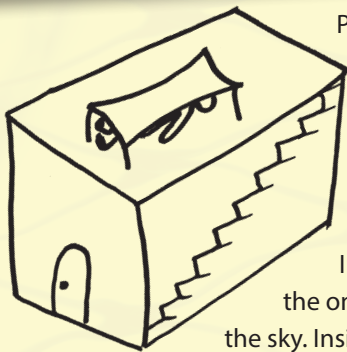
"What's the Maori word for Bluff oysters?" Torrance asked the captain.

"Tio para," he replied.

bluff oyster



A STRANGE DREAM



Peter woke suddenly. What was that strange dream?

He'd been dozing on a flat roof under a big sheet of leather hung up to dry. It was nearly lunchtime and he was hungry.

In his dream a big sheet, like the one over him, came down from the sky. Inside it were all sorts of animals and birds – frogs, snakes, pigs, owls, rats, bats, rabbits, lizards, vultures, pelicans and many more.

Then in his dream he heard the voice of God: "Get up Peter! Kill these animals and eat them."

Peter was a Jew and Jews had very strict rules about what to eat. He was not allowed to eat any of these animals and birds.

"I'd never do that, Lord," Peter replied. "They are all unclean."

"I've made them clean," God replied. "Don't call them unclean."

This happened three times in Peter's dream. Then there was a knock on the front door below and Peter woke.

"Is Peter here?" three men asked.

Peter knew from their accent that they were not Jews but Romans. Because of the strict food laws, Jews never asked

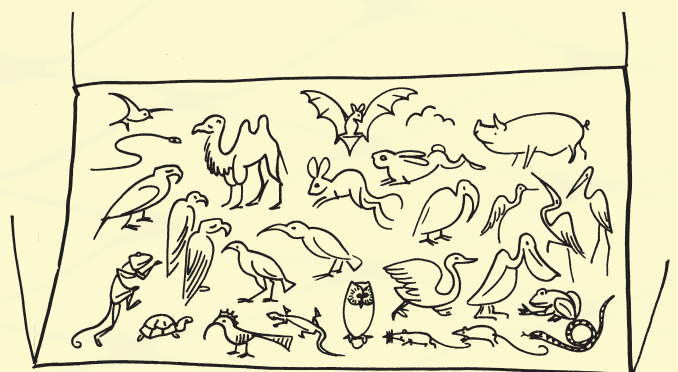
people who were Gentiles, not Jews, into their homes to share meals. So far no Gentiles had believed in Jesus.

"We've been sent by a captain in the Roman army named Cornelius, who lives in Caesarea," they explained. "He was praying in the afternoon two days ago and an angel appeared. The angel told him to invite a man called Peter, who is staying in this house, to come and tell him something he needs to know."

Because of his dream Peter started to break the Jewish rules. He invited the three Gentiles in to share a meal and stay the night.

The next morning they set out and walked all day. They stayed somewhere for the night and arrived at Captain Cornelius' home in Caesarea the next day at 3 p.m.

Peter suddenly realised what his dream meant. God wanted him to break the Jewish rules and tell Gentiles about Jesus.



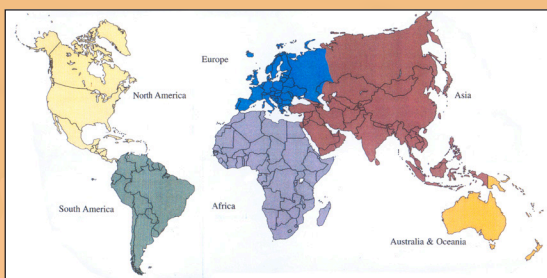
COUNTRIES IN THE BIBLE: A QUIZ

Many different countries are mentioned in the Bible. Can you guess the names of these ones? Check by looking up the reference in a Good News Bible. The first two letters and their continent or area are given.

- IN _ _ _ _ in Asia (*Esther 1:1*)
 EG _ _ _ _ in Africa (*Matthew 2:14*)
 SP _ _ _ _ in Europe (*Romans 15:28*)
 SY _ _ _ _ in the Middle East (*Ezekiel 27:16*)
 SU _ _ _ _ in Africa (*Jeremiah 46:9*)
 IT _ _ _ _ in Europe (*Hebrews 13:24*)
 ET _ _ _ _ _ in Africa (*Acts 8: 27–28*)
 CY _ _ _ _ _ in the Middle East (*1 Chronicles 1:7*)

MAP HUNT

You will need a map of the world. Can you find all the countries mentioned in **Countries in the Bible: A Quiz** and the **Word Search**?



Peter said to them all: "Now I know that God hears everyone's prayers, whatever their race. I'm sure you have heard about Jesus. God sent him as the Messiah to tell the Jews the good news of peace. He is the Lord of all. The Holy Spirit filled Jesus with great power and he healed many people. We saw all that he did. God was with him."

They all listened as Peter continued: "Jesus was arrested and killed, nailed to a cross. But God raised him back to life three days later. We all saw him alive. He told us to tell people everywhere that everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven. One day Jesus will be the judge of everyone."

Before Peter finished, all these Gentiles believed in Jesus. The Holy Spirit filled them with power and joy. They began to speak in other languages. This showed that they too were Christians.

Peter broke the rules again and stayed with them for several days.

Peter went back to Jerusalem and the church leaders told him off for breaking the rules. But Peter told them about his dream and all that had happened. Then they all knew that God wanted not just Jews but people of all races to trust and follow Jesus.

Read the story yourself in the Bible in Acts 10: 1–11:18.

WORD SEARCH

People from many different countries have come to live in New Zealand. Find some of these countries in this word search. They are listed below. Do you know any people from these countries?

J A Y L A B K M I J B T N F Z
 A B I O I R R N Q X P E B L C
 Z I M S A Z D P A K I S T A N
 E A B M Y O A C C J B C K U M
 S L N M N A E R A K A H N A C
 I E I E A C L E B N R P N E H
 D J S H N Z C A T U A T A A I
 Q I I A C E O O M N E D S N N
 A A R F E U N H B I A O A S A
 R F R R F G K L V B R R F W R
 N Y G I A Z H V T R G H I W E
 E W B A B M I Z A I L A M O S
 N J D A K W Q A E K N S D S H
 U X L A B Y Y B N E U Z N F V
 Q N N H P W W H V W F O L B Q

Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Fiji, France, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Samoa, Somalia, Tonga, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

A VERSE TO LEARN

Can you read this verse?

Clue: there's a letter you don't need between each word.

JESUSKAIDW"GOXTOVALLYPEOPLESQEVERYWHEREKAND
 FMAKEZTHEMJMYXDISCIPLES."

Check your answer by looking up Matthew 28:19 in a Good News Bible. Learn the verse by heart.

FISHING FOR FACTS

Did you find the name of the Port from which ships go to catch oysters and also their Maori name? The answers are in this month's **Oyster Catchers** story.

Next month Uncle Maui will take Torrance and Cooper snorkelling in the sea around the Poor Knights Islands. Can you find (1) the Maori names for the two main Poor Knights Islands and (2) when they first became a marine reserve and later were given full protection as a no-take zone?

A PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you that people from every different country can trust and follow you. Amen.

Compiled by Ron Fountain