

God's work

The finish line

The gospel has spread steadily since Jesus' death and resurrection, but never as rapidly as in our day. More people have followed Christ in the last 100 years than in all of the previous centuries combined. As barriers fall, more people groups are having the chance to hear about and respond to Jesus. What an exciting time in history for our family! We are approaching history's finish line, the time when peoples from every culture will know Jesus and He will claim His final victory over evil.



Revelation 7:9 (NIV)

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."

Study it

Share the account of Peter and Cornelius from Acts 10. Peter's cultural Jewish upbringing became a barrier that kept him from seeing the Gentiles' need for salvation through Jesus. How did God prepare Peter to meet Cornelius? What barriers did God eliminate (10:27, 34–35)? How did the removal of these barriers result in people being saved?

Experience it

- ▶ Make waffles to introduce your family to the concept of barriers. Pour syrup on a waffle. Observe how the syrup fills some squares, but passes over others. Imagine that the syrup is the gospel message and our world is a waffle. Think about how barriers act like "waffle walls," preventing the gospel message from reaching some people groups.
- ▶ Go barrier bowling! Set up six bottles like pins. Label each bottle with a barrier that prevents people from responding to the gospel. Using a small ball, take turns bowling down the barriers. Explain how the ball represents prayer. When we pray, God begins to knock down and remove barriers to the gospel. It takes ongoing prayer to remove them all.

Discuss it

- 1 Why is it important to get the gospel to unreached people groups?
- 2 How do barriers like geography, language, tradition, or religious beliefs keep the gospel from spreading?
- 3 What is it going to take to finish the task?

Map it

On sticky notes, write down several barriers that prevent the gospel from spreading. Stick these notes on your world map. Pray for people groups who remain unreached because of these barriers. Remove your notes from the map, praising God that He is able to remove these barriers.