



The Diversity of a Church on Mission
Acts 10-11
July 21, 2019

Scripture Reading – Acts 10:1-16

1. God sees all people that are seeking Him. (Acts 10:1-8)
2. God wants His people to value all seekers. (Acts 10:9-13)
3. God is able to cleanse anyone who comes to Him. (Acts 10:15)
4. God wants His people to reach out to all people. (Acts 10:23-29, 42-43)

Application:

1. Do you have a problem with prejudice? Do you tend to judge people from their outward appearance? Share with someone where you believe those thoughts come from.
2. Peter was a slow learner. He needed the vision to occur three times. Why was this such a hard lesson?
3. If we are on mission we will be caring about every person. What can you do this week to take a step out of your comfort zone and reach out to someone that is different than yourself?



Life Group Questions/ Discussion

Main thought of the Study – If we are truly on mission for Jesus we will see that the “mission” field is full of diversity. Do we need to stretch ourselves and go beyond our comfort zone? We will see how the Lord stretches Peter to reach people that he never thought worthy of reaching.

Introduction Discussion – Share a time when you were out of your “comfort zone.” What were your fears or anxieties? Why is it a good thing to be stretched?

Reflections from the Message

1. What was special about Cornelius? (Acts 10:1-2) Discuss why his willingness to give generously was important to the Lord? (Acts 10:4, also compare Matthew 6:21) What was Peter doing at this time? (Acts 10:9) God speaks to His people when they are praying. (Hebrews 11:6) Has the Lord ever impressed you with something while you were praying? Share a time when something became clearer while you were praying.
2. Describe the vision of Peter. (Acts 10:9-11) How difficult was it for Peter to eat these animals? Why do you think it was repeated three times? Do you tend to be a rule follower or a rule breaker? The command of the Lord was going against everything he had been taught in Judaism. Is your practice of Christianity today similar or different than how you were raised?
3. Though the Law stated that these animals were unclean, what is God able to do? (Acts 10:15) What does it mean that “God shows no partiality?” (Acts 10:34) How does this truth impact our mission for Jesus?
4. An amazing principle of outreach is found in the house of Cornelius. What does Peter see when he enters the house? (Acts 10:24, 27) Who are the best people to share the Gospel with? Peter says that he came without objection. (Acts 10:29) Have you ever “objected” when the Lord wanted you to talk to someone or do something for Him? Why do we tend to object? Why would Jewish people hesitate in going to a Gentile home?

Digging Deeper

Review the Biblical teaching on God “cleansing” us. Why do we need cleansing? How does God cleanse His people? (Psalm 51:2, 10; I John 1:7, 9; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 5:26) Is there anyone beyond His cleansing?

Application:

1. Think of someone outside your comfort zone and begin praying for a way to reach out to them.
2. Discuss the areas of prejudice that we tend to have as we look at the people in our community. How can we break those perspectives? Do one thing to show kindness to someone this week that is in the area of prejudice for you.