

Message Discussion Questions

From October 18, 2020

Reaction to the message...

- What particularly struck you from Sunday's message?

Read together Acts 10:1-23

Questions that explore what happened and help us understand the meaning of the text

- What do you learn about Cornelius at the beginning of this chapter? (10:1-8)
- Notice the detail Luke gives the reader about the times when Cornelius had his vision and when Peter had his? What does this tell you about how God works? (10:3,9)
- Describe the ethnic, political, and social status barriers that would have existed between Cornelius and Peter.
- Peter had been living his life respectful of Jewish dietary laws. (You could take a look at Leviticus 11 for background on this if you have a lot of extra time.) But Peter had already been challenged by Jesus about how to understand these "laws". Read Mark 7:13-23 and consider what Peter may be struggling internally with in this vision.
- What might be the significance of Peter having this vision "three times"? (10:16)
- How does Peter's vision challenge his opinions about what is or isn't appropriate to do as a follower of Jesus? (10:15)
- Notice that Peter's praying left him perplexed and puzzled. What does this teach you about the way God sometimes uses prayer to shape us? (10:17,19)
- What does this passage reveal about the personhood of the Holy Spirit? (10:19-20) What does this whole chapter reveal about what the Holy Spirit intends to accomplish in our lives? (See also Acts 1:8, 8:29)

Read together Acts 10:24-48

Questions that explore what happened and help us understand the meaning of the text

- First, Peter invited Cornelius' servants and attendant to spend the night where he was staying (at Simon the Tanner's home), then Peter enters Cornelius' home the next day (and stays with him for several days). What does it say to invite someone to stay with you in your home like this? (See 10:23, 25, 27, 48)
- What had Peter learned about dignity and equality from this experience? (10:25-28, 47-48) Why does it take a dramatic push from the Holy Spirit to spur this kind of reconciliation?

- Put on your theological hats and unpack the layers of Peter’s declaration: “This is the message of the Good News—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.” (10:36)
- Finish this sentence: “Because Jesus Christ is Lord of all, _____.”
- Notice in Peter’s message to Cornelius, he mentions that Jesus ate and drank with him (and several others). With this in mind, how did Jesus role model what he intended his followers to do? (10:34-41)
- In 10:39, Peter refers to himself (and the other apostles) as “witnesses”. First, what did he “witness”? Second, what have you seen the Lord do that you could testify about?
- What other elements of this chapter stand out to you and help you 1) understand God better or 2) understand how to treat others better?
- How does Jesus shape our approach to others during this complicated 2020 year?
- For follow-up later this week on your own, you could choose to keep reading and studying in Acts 11:1-18.

APPLY

Because Jesus Christ is Lord of all, what attitudes or tendencies may God be calling you to surrender this week?