ENOGGERA BAPTIST CHURCH
Jesus changes lives

ACTS

Acts #14 – 10:1-48 The Gospel Is For All People

Acts 10:34-35 – *"Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, [35] but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.*

NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Alpha Course**
  - We are looking at starting a Monday Night Alpha Course (start date TBA)
  - Talk and pray as a group about who you might be able to invite
- **Clothes Swap Save The Date**
  - Saturday Night 1st September
  - We will need many volunteers to run the night, especially in the 2 weeks leading up to the event, and the day of. Please encourage your groups to give a helping hand!
- **New Website & Podcast**
  - Go check it out and subscribe!

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#14 ACTS 10:1-48

REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

Having birthed the church in the city of Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost and the church scattering under the outbreak of persecution by the Jews, God then miraculously orchestrates the next chapter in the story. He gives near simultaneous visions to both Peter and a Roman Centurion, Cornelius, a man who worshipped the God of the Jews as a Gentile outsider. But Cornelius would not be an outsider for much longer, as Peter is lead by God preach the gospel to him and his family, resulting in the falling of the Holy Spirit on the on the Gentiles for the very first time.

Through the conversion of Cornelius, God is demonstrating irrevocably that he does not make distinctions in his kingdom, and that we have no right to make distinctions either. All human beings are equal in the sight of God and welcome at the banquet table of God through faith in Christ, a message so radical that it would go on to transform the face of the earth.

Acts 10:1-48

Peter and Cornelius

10 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian
Cohort, **2** a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people,
and prayed continually to God. **3** About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel
of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." **4** And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it,
Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before
God.**5** And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.**6** He is lodging with one
Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea."**7** When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he
called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him,**8** and having
related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Peter's Vision

9 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the
housetop about the sixth hour[b] to pray. 10 And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but
while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance 11 and saw the heavens opened and something like
a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of
animals and reptiles and birds of the air. 13 And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and
eat." 14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common
or unclean." 15 And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not
call common."16 This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean,
behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the
gate 18 and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. 19 And while
Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. 20 Rise
and go down and accompany them without hesitation,[c] for I have sent them." 21 And Peter went
down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your
coming?" 22 And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well
spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his
house and to hear what you have to say." 23 So he invited them in to be his guests.

The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied
him. 24 And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had
called together his relatives and close friends. 25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell
down at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a
man." 27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. 28 And he said to
them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of
another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. 29 So
when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me."

30 And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth
hour,[d] and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing 31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has
been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. 32 Send therefore to Joppa and ask
for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' 33 So I sent
for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the
presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

Gentiles Hear the Good News

34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in
every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 As for the word
that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 you
yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that
John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He
went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with
him. 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They

put him to death by hanging him on a tree, [40] but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, [41] not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. [42] And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. [43] To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

[44] While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. [45] And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. [46] For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, [47] "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" [48] And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS**: How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?
2. **DISCUSS:** Reflect on any occasions where you have felt separated from people because of cultural or racial differences.
3. **STUDY:** Read 10:1-48
    a. What do we learn about the character of God from his response to Cornelius through the angel (v. 3-6)?
    b. How did God prepare Peter to meet with Cornelius?
    c. What would the command in verse 13-15 have meant to Peter? Why is this so significant?
    d. What is the message of Cornelius' vision?
    e. Consider the outcome if either Peter or Cornelius had not obeyed God's vision. What would have happened?
    f. What does Peter highlight in his mini-sermon to the household of Cornelius? What is the significance of this?
    g. What is the purpose of the Law?
4. **APPLY:**
    a. How are you affected as you see the timing and plan of God in people's lives?
    b. How have you experienced this in your own life?
    c. How do you see unity between people from different cultures and races lived out in church life?
    d. What things do you think that, like Peter, we have added to the message of God? Where do we need to repent of this? What is the solution to knowing the difference?

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PRAY

Pray that we might have courage to face the difficulties that come our way in following Jesus, that we might have joy in our trials to shine the gospel to the watching world, and soft hearts to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Ask God that we would get to experience his miraculous and transformational power before the watching world – for his great glory.

Ask God to give you a joyful confidence in the truth, power and relevance of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pray for the mission of our church both corporately and as individual Christians in our work places, schools, universities and neighbourhoods.

HELPFUL NOTES

NOTES ON KEY TEXTS

Acts 6:1–12:25 The Witness beyond Jerusalem. Beginning with Greek-speaking Jewish Christians in Jerusalem (6:1–7), the Christian gospel was proclaimed to an ever-widening circle—to Samaria (8:4–25), to an Ethiopian (8:26–40), to a Gentile God-fearer (10:1–48), and to the Gentiles of Antioch (11:19–30). Key figures in the outreach were the Hellenists Stephen and Philip, the apostle Peter, and eventually Paul and Barnabas. The stage was then set for Paul's ministry that would go to the "end of the earth" (1:8).

REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

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