

March 17 – 23

Saints and Sinners | God is For Everyone

Icebreaker: Who or what did God use to give you the Gospel? Did your faith come as a radical departure from where you were, or did it result from God slowly changing you over time?

Skim Acts 10:1–33

- Who is Cornelius? Why is he an anomaly? What happens to him? (See also Jesus' interaction with a Centurion in Matthew 8:5–13.)
- What happens to Peter on the rooftop? How did this blow his categories? (see what Jesus has to say about this in Mark 7:14–19)
- Why does God involve Peter? What lessons does God want to teach him?
 - Why didn't God just have the angel tell Cornelius about salvation?
- Cornelius led his family to fear God. He was very generous in giving to the poor. He prayed regularly. Was he saved? Keep this question in mind as we get to the next sections of this story.
- What happens when Peter and Cornelius meet each other?
- What was God's desire for Gentiles from the beginning? (Consider the story of Jonah. Look at Genesis 12:3.)

Read Acts 10:34–43

- Peter had already learned the lesson about food. How does that connect with this meeting? What is so radical in how they relate to each other?
- What does it mean that God shows no partiality? What does it not mean? On what basis does God respond to people?
- List out the details of what Peter tells these Gentiles. What stands out to you?
- What is the key information that Cornelius and his household must understand? How must they respond?

Read Acts 10:44–48

- What happens to these Gentiles?
- Why were the Jews amazed? What does this tell us about how Jews viewed the spiritual state of the Gentiles?
- How does Peter respond to what happens to these Gentiles?
- How is this a major pivot point in the history of those who follow God? How has this impacted most of us today?
- Skim Acts 11:1–18. How do the church leaders respond to what happens with these Gentiles?

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- In this story, we see a clear progression in time from a profession of faith to the giving of the Spirit to the act of baptism. At what point is someone saved? What is the result of salvation?
 - Who are the Corneliuses of today? Consider his situation before meeting Peter and how he differed from other Gentiles.
 - Everyone needs someone to help them come to a place of understanding who Jesus is. Who will be your one? What do you learn from this story about how to approach that person?