

Acts 10:24-48 Small Group Questions

In verse 24, Cornelius gathers his relatives and close friends. What does this tell you about his spiritual hunger and his influence with others?

What was Cornelius' response when he sees Peter? Why do you think Cornelius falls at Peter's feet and "worships" him in verses 25–26? What does Peter's response show about how we should view spiritual leaders?

In verses 27–29, Peter explains why it was unlawful for a Jew to associate with a Gentile, yet he still enters the house. What change has already begun in Peter's thinking?

In verses 34–35, Peter says that God shows no partiality but accepts those from every nation who fear Him and do what is right. How is this a key summary of what God is doing in this story?

As Peter preaches (verses 36–43), what main points about Jesus does he emphasize (life, death, resurrection, judgment, forgiveness)? Make a quick list from the passage.

While Peter is still speaking, the Holy Spirit falls on all who are listening (verses 44–46). What visible evidence shows that the Gentiles have received the Holy Spirit?

In verses 47–48, what arguments does Peter give for baptizing these Gentile believers? What is the response of the Jewish believers who came with him?

Cornelius is devout, generous, and prayerful, yet still needs to hear the gospel about Jesus. What does that teach us about the difference between general belief in God and saving faith in Christ?

Read Romans 1:18-20 and Psalm 19:1-4. What do these verses tell us about people being without excuse?

Peter concludes that God has shown him not to call any person common or unclean (verse 28). How does this connect to his earlier vision of the clean and unclean animals?

What does it practically mean that God shows "no partiality" (verses 34–35)? How does this confront both ethnic and religious pride in the early church?

Why do you think God poured out the Holy Spirit so dramatically and publicly in this moment, including tongues and praise? How might this have helped convince Jewish believers about Gentile inclusion?

How do these verses show the fulfillment of Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 about the gospel going to "the ends of the earth"?

What does this story teach about the unity of the church—Jew and Gentile together—as one new people in Christ? You might connect this with Ephesians 2:14–16.

Cornelius used his relational influence to gather friends and family to hear God's word. Who in your life could you intentionally invite to "come and hear" rather than keep spiritual things private?

Peter had to confront deep-seated prejudice and religious habits to obey God. Are there any groups of people—cultural, political, racial, economic—that you tend to see as "unclean" or "unlikely" candidates for God's grace?

If the gospel breaks down barriers, what "boundary lines" might you personally have drawn that God is asking you to cross (neighborhoods, social circles, church traditions, age groups)?

Cornelius's worship of Peter was sincere but misplaced. In what ways might we be tempted today to put spiritual leaders, traditions, or experiences in a place that belongs only to Christ?

Peter's message centers on Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and the offer of forgiveness. If you had five minutes, how would you summarize the good news of Jesus in your own words?