

Acts 10 “Peter’s Special Mission” May 16, 2021

1) Following Jesus means taking a risk! We all have fears to overcome: standing up to the crowd—old friends who liked us better before; family who felt rejected.

(Acts 9:26; 9:29)

2) Peter was not given authority over the church, he was given “the keys of the kingdom” to open the door of faith to the **Jews** (Acts 2); the **Samaritans** (Acts 8); and now he will complete his special ministry by opening the door to the **Gentiles** (Acts 10).

(Acts 9:42-43)

3) God has not given to angels the ministry of sharing the Gospel with sinners. That is our privilege, to share the Gospel to lost souls, a privilege angels cannot have!

(2 Kings 6:16-17)

4) God has chosen us—you and me—as timid or imperfect as we are, to share the Gospel...
...His message of salvation to the World around us!
(Daniel 6:12; Luke 15:7, 10; 1 Peter 1:12)

5) When God is leading - He’s almost always leading on Both ends!

6) Christianity is salvation - not religion. Since none of us are perfect, or even good enough; salvation is all about grace. And the only place you’ll find this level of grace is at the cross of Jesus.

7) We need to stay sensitive to God’s leading; especially to keep your heart and mind open to new ways that challenge you and help you to grow.
(Acts 11:15-18)

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Ephesians 4:15-16 - "[15] but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- [16] from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

TAKING IT HOME

- 8) Don showed us that God calls us (not angels) to share the gospel with others, and that we must be willing to take risks in gospel sharing. In our homework, we've seen how God blesses us in order to make Himself known among the nations - that He wants us to grow spiritually to teach and invite others to know Him. Try to come up with at least three people that you feel a burden to share the gospel with.
- 9) What are some practical ways you can point these (and other) people to Jesus?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of May 16, 2021

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) Can you think of a time when you were influenced by somebody close to you to try something new? If so, what happened? Was it a good thing or a bad thing?

Why do you think you gave into their "peer pressure"?

- 2) This week, we learned the story of Cornelius and his conversion. He started as a devout and God-fearing man who gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly, and along the way he found genuine salvation in Christ and became filled with the Holy Spirit. From Cornelius' example, which of the following disciplines from his life would be easiest and which would be hardest for you to engage in:
- Genuinely seek God's guidance and direction in your prayers.
 - Become more disciplined in your study, leading and encouraging others to do the same.
 - Invite one of your non-believing friends or family members to church with you
 - Open your heart and mind to new ways that challenge you and help you to grow.
 - Treat those who are currently outside your circle with genuine care and respect.

REVIEW

- 3) Looking back at your notes, what stood out to you from this week's message? (Favorite point? Questions? etc..)

DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) In Acts 10, Peter discovered that God's grace was for all people, from all nations, Jew or Gentile. Read the following passages about God's heart for the nations, making note of anything that confuses/stands out to you.

Acts 10:34-35 - "[34] Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. [35] 'But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.'"

Psalm 46:10 - "[10] Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Revelation 7:9-10 - "[9] After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, [10] and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

Why do you think God wants to save people from all nations?

- 5) Read the following passage, then answer this: What is the purpose of God's blessing?

Psalm 67:1-2 - "[1] To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song. God be merciful to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah [2] That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations."

How might God's blessing in your life cause His salvation to be known across the earth?

- 6) Cornelius is a wonderful example for us because he was not satisfied in his relationship with God, but desired to continually grow deeper. Part of that willingness to grow meant that when Peter revealed new spiritual truth (the gospel) to him, Cornelius was ready and willing to accept it. What temptations are most likely to hinder your growth spiritually?
- 7) How do the following verses encourage you to grow more spiritually mature?

Hebrews 5:12-14 - "[12] For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. [13] For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. [14] But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

2 Peter 1:5-8 - "[5] But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, [6] to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, [7] to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. [8] For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."