
[SERMON NOTES]

Acts – Week 10 (*Acts 10:1-28, 34-36, 44-48; Deuteronomy 10:17; Romans 8:26-30*)

God often works _____ as we work _____.

You don't have to _____ everything about _____
in order to trust that _____.

God uses _____ people.

Seeing the _____ story helps us understand _____ story.

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

We have all changed our minds about something in our lives. Maybe you were vehemently against the color red and then decided it's the best color because it's the color of the blood of Jesus. Or you grew up hating vegetables and then realized they weren't that bad and in fact can help you live longer. Or you were once a Cubs fan and decided to back the Cardinals instead as one does when they see the light for the first time. More seriously, perhaps you really disliked someone or a group of someones from a distance and then after spending some time with them you realized they were really good people. **Take a moment and think back to a time in your life that you were dead set on something but then you changed your mind—whether serious or humorous—and share it with your group.**

[DIGGING DEEPER]

Peter had his mind changed in Acts 10 in several different ways.

First, his vision from God convinced him that it was okay for him to eat certain kinds of foods that had been prohibited for Jewish people since the early Israelite days (see Lev. 11 & Deut. 14). **What are some of the things in your life that you would be most reluctant to compromise on or give up if God asked?**

Secondly, as we will see in chapter 11, Peter and the Early Church are convinced by the events in chapter 10 that even the Gentiles are welcomed into the new Kingdom and the salvation that Jesus preached and the Holy Spirit was enacting. It is important to remember that we are Gentiles and, without this event, who knows where the trajectory of the Gospel would have gone. **Reflect on the idea that God has welcomed us Gentiles into his Kingdom. What are you most thankful for about the life that God offers to you and me?**

Read Galatians 3:27-29. Humans have a tendency of leaving others out, writing them off, and excluding them from community because of the way they look, what they believe, or how they live. However, in this text as well as Acts 10 we see that God is always at work even in those we least expect and that all are welcome. **What are some of the kinds of people today that you yourself or Christians as a whole stereotypically tend to exclude from the grace that God offers?**

Read Acts 10:2-3, 9. **What was it that Cornelius and Peter had rhythms of doing when they encountered visions from God in these verses?**

Prayer and devotion to God are the catalysts for God to speak to us. It is when our attention is fully on God that it is easiest to hear him speak. We see in this chapter that there were specific times of day that Peter and Cornelius set aside for religious devotion in prayer. **What are your daily rhythms of prayer? If you have none, what could they be? How could you expectantly turn your attention and devotion to God, looking forward to what he is going to do next?**

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (*1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Acts 10

Leviticus 11

Deuteronomy 14:1-21

Galatians 3