



Community Group Discussion Guide

Acts 9:32-10:48 – May 2nd, 2021

I. Starter Questions:

1. As a child, what food(s) did you refuse to eat? What do you still dislike today?
2. *(May or may not be wise for open discussion but to ponder quietly- you discern) What kind of person would you have the most trouble going to visit if God called you to go to their house? (Different religion. Muslim – Mormon - Atheist? Different view of sexuality – transgender or homosexual? Different race? Different Socioeconomic status?)

II. Discussion of Scripture:

A. The Healing of Aeneas: Acts 9:32-35

³² Now ^has Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. ³⁴ And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, ⁱJesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. ³⁵ ^jAnd all the residents of Lydda and ^kSharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Dorcas Restored to Life: Acts 9:36-43

³⁶ Now there was in ^mJoppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. ⁴ She was full of ⁿgood works and acts of charity. ³⁷ In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in ^oan upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, ^p“Please come to us without delay.” ³⁹ So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to ^qthe upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics⁵ and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter ^rput them all outside, and ^sknelt down and prayed; and turning to the body^t he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, and ^umany believed in the Lord. ⁴³ And he stayed in Joppa for many days ^vwith one Simon, a tanner.

Content & Questions:

- A little background: Saul had just been persecuting Christians. Christians fled for their safety and, in that fleeing, spread the Gospel just as the Great Commission had commanded them to do. Saul has had his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus to persecute more Christians, and has repented and turned away to follow and serve Jesus.
- God transformed the life of Saul. He was once a persecutor of Christians and loyal to the Jewish leaders that persecuted and crucified Christ. That same God and power is now working through Peter in this section of Acts 9. It is no small feat that Peter healed a lame man and raised someone from the dead. God did all the work but used Peter as the

outward display of that power. Because of that, many people came to know and believe in the Lord. Whole towns of people came to believe in Christ because of God working through and using Peter.

- God uses all types of people and situations in the spreading of the Gospel, both good situations and difficult situations. A perfect example of this is Saul's persecution spreading the gospel to places all over the region, and Peter healing people also brought whole towns of people to know the Lord.
- Let us note all the Residents of Lydda and Sharon saw and believed in Christ. Let us not glance over the importance of this evidence of the spread of the gospel.

1. How is God's word pointing the reader to the Gospel?
2. How does God use difficult situations in our lives to spread the gospel and draw people to believing in God?
3. God working through Peter changed other people's trajectory of life. Is God using us to change the trajectory of someone's life that we come in contact with? If not, what are we missing/doing with our life?
4. Put yourself in Aeneas's situation. Would you have faith to actually try to stand and walk? Or would you shrug it off?
 - a. There had to be imposters and others who were trying to bring glory to themselves by doing different things like trying to heal people just like Televangelists try to do now.
 - b. Was it the power of God working through Peter or was it the faith that Aeneas had in Christ that healed him?
5. How can we list tangible ways to have faith like Peter and Aeneas?
6. Think of Peter in the situation of being called upon to raise this woman from the dead. How would that test his faith in Christ?

B. Peter and Cornelius: Acts 10:1-8

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of ^wwhat was known as the Italian Cohort, ² a devout man ^xwho feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³ ^yAbout the ninth hour of the day ¹ ²he saw clearly in a vision ^aan 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 ^bhave ascended ^cas a memorial before God. ⁵ And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is lodging ^dwith 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: Acts 10:9-33

The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, ^ePeter went up ^fon the housetop about ^gthe sixth hour ² to pray. ¹⁰ And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into ^ha trance ¹¹ and saw ⁱthe 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; ^jfor I have never eaten anything

that is ^kcommon or ^lunclean.”¹⁵ And the voice came to him again a second time, ^m“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 ⁿthe vision that he had seen might mean, behold, ^othe 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 ⁿthe vision, ^pthe Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ Rise and go down and ^qaccompany them without hesitation, ³ 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 ^rGod-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by ^sa holy angel to send for you to come to his house and ^tto 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 ^usome of ^vthe 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 ^wfell down at his feet and ^xworshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, ^y“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 ^zto associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but ^oGod 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, ^b“Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at ^cthe ninth hour, ⁴ and behold, ^da man stood before me in bright clothing ³¹ and said, ‘Cornelius, ^eyour 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: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that ^fGod ^gshows no partiality, ³⁵ but ^fin every nation anyone who fears him and ^hdoes what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ As for ⁱthe word that he sent to Israel, ^jpreaching good news of ^kpeace through Jesus Christ (^lhe is Lord of all), ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, ^mbeginning ⁿfrom Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:³⁸ how ^oGod anointed Jesus of Nazareth ^pwith the Holy Spirit and with ^qpower. He went about doing good and healing all ^rwho were oppressed by the devil, ^sfor God was with him. ³⁹ And ^twe are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. ^uThey put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but ^vGod raised him on ^wthe third day and made him to ^xappear, ⁴¹ ^ynot to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as ^zwitnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And ^ahe commanded us to preach to the people and to testify ^bthat he is the one appointed by God to be judge ^cof the living and the dead. ⁴³ ^dTo him ^eall the prophets bear witness that ^feveryone who believes in him receives ^gforgiveness of sins ^hthrough his name.”

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles: Acts 10:44-48

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

Content & Questions:

- Common & Unclean: Non-Jewish people aka: Gentiles. To the people of Jewish culture, it was always taught that you are not to marry or intermingle with people outside of the Jewish religion/culture. Peter and the men that were traveling with Peter were Jewish and were not intermingling with Gentiles. We can see how this is a problem for the spread of the Gospel to all people.
 - Verses 34-35 are extremely important to the people involved in the scripture and also to us today. This passage breaks down any wall of “uncommon vs common” back then and now. Everyone is a sinner in need of a Savior, and the only way to that Savior is through the Gospel. That is the basis for everything. We struggle with a lot of things today as a culture for one reason or another. If we used these verses as a filter, a lot of problems in our culture and life would be non-existent.
1. How would Cornelius’s response to the angel in the vision differ from ours?
 2. How is the submission of Cornelius an example to how the reader needs to submit to God?
 3. Although we normally do not see angels when God is trying to tell us something, what are some ways God speaks to us? Are we as obedient as Cornelius to follow through?
 4. Who have we been acting like that they are common or unclean? Certain people who believe differently? People who look differently? Speak differently? Or act differently? How can we face that stigma head on to see how God sees them, in need of a Savior and in need of the Gospel?
 5. How do you think Peter felt after his vision and the men coming to get him to take him to Cornelius? Then getting to Cornelius’s house and seeing all the Gentiles there? How about the men who were traveling with Peter?
 6. How do these verses relate to the current climate that we are in right now? How do these verses speak to how we need to act?

III. Responding in Prayer:

Spend time praying together for our Church, for John, for our Elders.

Spend time praying for our country in context of vs 34-35.

Spend time praying for your fellow believers and their pursuit to spread the Gospel.