

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 16, 2014

This Week's Focus: God continues to work on the hearts of Cornelius and Peter by orchestrating events that show them that the Gentiles have equal access to the Gospel.

This Week's Text: Acts 10:16-11:18

*Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. **Ephesians 2:11-14***

*Every compliment that bounces into our ears should quickly rebound up to the Father. If we hold onto it, the poison of pride will begin to infect our hearts. But if we pass the praise to God, humility takes up residence in our souls. **In Touch Ministry***

Related Texts: Matthew 23:11-12; 1 Peter 5:5-7; Proverbs 27:21; Roman 3:20; John 6:44; Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Galatians 3:13; Luke 12:49-50

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What does God do to prepare Peter for change?
- Discuss the vision Peter sees and how it was breaking down Peter's racial and cultural prejudices.
- Are there certain people groups that you struggle to see as clean and not unclean?
- What prejudices do you see in the church?
- Cornelius is an example of a good man without the gospel. What do these verses teach us about such a person? About God? Reference John 6:44.

- In verse 25 Cornelius falls at Peter's feet. What was Peter's response? Why does he respond in this way?
- What are the dangers in receiving praise? How should we handle praise?
- Does God still initiate divine appointments and orchestrate events to bring people together?
 - Are you watching for them?
 - Are you willing to be of use to God by declaring and demonstrating the gospel to all people?
- Discuss the different aspects of Peter's sermon in verses 34-43.
 - How does it show that Peter now understands the meaning of his vision?
- While Peter was preaching the gospel, the Holy Spirit fell on the gentiles - Cornelius, his family and friends.
 - What does this incident tell us?
 - What was Peter's conclusion?
 - What was God showing Peter by sending the Holy Spirit in such a way that it resembled the Day of Pentacost?
- What is legalism and how does it detract from the gospel?
- Read Galatians 2:11-15 and discuss the implications of the gospel of grace on racism.
- The Holy Spirit's descent was connected to the word of God being preached, namely the gospel.
 - How does the Spirit come in greater fullness through the word of the gospel in your life?
 - Describe areas of your life that the gospel has changed you?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus has come to redeem all nations, races, tongues and tribes.
- Jesus took our "uncleanness" on himself and his "cleanness" has become ours.
- Jesus was baptized with the fire of God's judgment so that we can be forgiven.
- Jesus was baptized with God's absence so that we can have His presence.

Prayer Focus:

- Look within and repent of any prejudices.
- Be open and willing to share Christ with whomever God calls you to.
- Preach and press in the gospel in and on all parts of your life.

Next Week's Text: Acts 11:19-30