



HomeGroup **LEADER** Discussion Questions

Week 2

THIS WEEK, BEFORE YOU HIT “PLAY” ON THE WEEKEND SERVICE VIDEO, TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO READ ACTS 10 TOGETHER. THEN, ASK THE LORD TO GUIDE AND BLESS YOUR WORSHIP TOGETHER.

PICK ONLY A FEW OF THE QUESTIONS (MAYBE ONE FROM EACH SECTION) TO DISCUSS WITH THE GROUP.

Partiality, bias, favoritism—these are familiar and unfortunate parts of life. We see them along ethnic, financial, physical and social lines, to name a few. They divide us and expose hearts that run against the grain of the gospel. Who matters to God? Who *doesn't* matter to God?!

God's heart has always been for the world, but sometimes it takes a supernatural intervention to remind us of that truth. As we heard from the sermon, God is always at work to prepare people—without partiality—for salvation.

MAIN TEXT: Acts 10

CONNECT

1. Have you ever been treated differently simply because of your appearance, the size of your home, your level of education, or some other condition? If so, what happened and how did you respond?
2. Last week, we talked about how God was at work behind the scenes with Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. How have you noticed God at work this week?

LEARN

3. As Pastors Tom and Thomas pointed out in the sermon, God is actively at work again here in chapter 10. Where in the text is God's intervention most evident?

There are easy options here: (1) Cornelius has a vision with an angel in vv. 3-6; (2) Peter has a vision where he hears a voice instruct him about the food in vv. 10-16; (3) The Spirit instructs Peter about the three men sent by Cornelius; (4) The Holy Spirit comes on those listening to Peter's presentation of the gospel in vv. 44-46.

4. Both Cornelius and Peter have supernatural encounters. What was it about their lives that demonstrates their desire to hear from God even before these events took place? Pastor Tom talks specifically about Cornelius' positive response (see v. 2) to the limited revelation he had up until the events of this chapter. That responsiveness was a clue that Cornelius had the kind of heart that would believe an even greater revelation about Jesus given by Peter in vv. 34-43. Similarly, Peter's greater revelation happens when he is about to pray (v. 9). Both men were exhibiting a devotion to God that put them in position to have even more revealed. Listen also for Tom's warning about those who fail to respond to what has already been revealed!

5. Where do we see Peter demonstrate faith in spite of not being sure of what God was doing?

Peter is "inwardly perplexed" in v. 17, yet he responds to invite Cornelius' people into his home even though he doesn't know what's going to happen next. He also travels to Caesarea with them the following day, not knowing what God's purpose was.

6. How does Peter's explanation of the gospel in verses 34-43 demonstrate God's desire for all of humanity to know Him?

APPLY

7. Since God is impartial (vv. 34-5), we ought to be impartial as well. Have you seen partiality or unjust favoritism demonstrated among God's people? If so, how?

Consider taking time to pray, admitting and turning away from attitudes, words, or actions of prejudice that you see in our community at Calvary.

Time permitting, this could be included in your prayer time as a group.

8. Peter knew what to do next, but he didn't always know why (look back at v. 17). How can we encourage each other to follow Jesus even when we're "inwardly perplexed" about why God is working in ways we don't yet understand?

In the big-picture, this whole season of COVID, political division, and racial strife could be a time where we don't see what purpose God has. This question attempts to ask how we can stay faithful even when life doesn't seem to make sense. Of course, on a smaller scale, we might be experiencing something even more disorienting, such as sickness, job loss, or difficult relationships. How do we remind each other that God is in control and that His good purposes will prevail?

9. Since "God shows no partiality" and "everyone who believes in [Jesus] receives forgiveness of sins through his name," who do you know who God may be preparing to hear the gospel message? What next step could you take?

We need to remember that God is still at work in drawing people to Himself! Moreover, God may be drawing some of the most unexpected characters to Himself! Like Philip last week and Peter this week, we too have the privilege of being used by God to explain the gospel—even (or especially?) to those who seem like they're far from salvation.