

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 20, 2007

Passage: Acts 10:1-48

Memory Passage: Galatians 3:28

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 10:1-8.** Who is introduced to us by Luke and how is he described?
- (b) What does this description tell us about how God had been working in Cornelius's heart? What is God's promise to all who seek Him (Jeremiah 29:13; Deuteronomy 4:29; Isaiah 55:6)?
- (c) How does this fit with Romans 3:10-11, John 6:44 and 6:64? What is the evidence of this in Acts 10:1-4? Who is ultimately doing the seeking (Luke 19:10; Luke 15:4, 8; 1 John 4:19)?
- (d) What did the angel tell Cornelius to do? How specific are his instructions? Why does this matter?
- (e) Read Acts 10:6 again. Why didn't the angel just share the gospel with Cornelius (1 Corinthians 1:18-21; 2 Corinthians 5:19)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 10:1-8 and Isaiah 55:6. Talk about how God calls people to salvation. What are some of the evidences that God is working on a person's heart to bring them to faith? What is God's promise to everyone who seeks Him? Is God *fair* to do this? Pray for someone that needs to know Christ. Pray that God will change their hearts and draw them to Christ.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 10:9-23.** What was Peter doing when he had the vision? Compare this with what Cornelius was doing when the angel appeared to him (Acts 10:2-4; Acts 3:1). What is one lesson about prayer that we might draw from this?
- (b) Describe the vision that Peter had. Why was it alarming to him (Leviticus 20:25-26)? Why does God present it to him three times?
- (c) What was this vision showing: 1) Mark 7:14-23; Colossians 2:16-17; 1 Timothy 4:1-5; and 2) Galatians 3:26-28; Galatians 5:6; Colossians 3:11; Ephesians 3:6; Romans 3:29-30?
- (d) Who else was also in Caesarea at this time (Acts 8:40)? Why do you think God *chose* to use Peter? How specific was God's revelation to Peter? What does the timing of the arrival of the men from Caesarea tell you about God's sovereign providence?
- (e) What did Peter do for those who had come? How does this show that God is breaking down barriers in Peter's heart (Acts 10:23; Acts 9:43)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 10:9-20 and Galatians 3:26-28. What are some things that the Jews would not do because of their commitment to God? How has faith in Jesus changed our relationship to those OT laws? Who can have faith in Jesus? Can anyone? What is the one requirement for salvation? Pray that God will give you a heart for people of all cultures and backgrounds.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 10:24-33.** What had Cornelius been doing while waiting on Peter's arrival? How is this an effective means of evangelism (Matthew 9:9-11; Luke 5:29-30)?
- (b) How did Peter respond when Cornelius bowed down before him (also Acts 14:11-13; Revelation 19:10)?
- (c) How did Jesus respond when people did this (Matthew 8:2; 14:33, etc)? What does this tell us about Jesus?
- (d) What custom had Peter broken in coming to them (also Acts 11:2-3)? What had God taught him that gave him the freedom to go and share the gospel with the Gentiles? What barriers of prejudice do believers have today that keep us from sharing the gospel?
- (e) Read John 4:25-42. What lesson about the harvest was Jesus teaching his disciples? What impact did this woman's testimony have on those she knew?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 10:24-33 and John 4:25-42. What are some ways that you can be involved in friendship evangelism? How can you use your home this year as a place where the gospel might be shared with others? What kinds of people do you have the hardest time sharing the gospel with? Ask God to open your eyes to see the harvest field He has you in.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 10:34-43.** What did Peter do (compare Acts 8:35; Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:2-4)? What is often the hardest part in evangelism?
- (b) What admission does Peter begin with? Who does God accept (Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:11-16)?
- (c) What did he tell them that God did through Jesus? *Who* did Jesus appear to (Acts 10:40-41)? Why does Peter mention this?
- (d) What does Peter say Jesus will return to do (verse 42; also John 5:22-29)?
- (e) What tremendous promise is given in verse 43? Who is this promise available for?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 10:34-43 and Colossians 4:2-4. What would you consider to be the essentials of the gospel message? Make an outline of your major points and then practice sharing the gospel with each other. Try to be able to share these essential elements in about 5 minutes each! Pray that God would give each of you an open door to share this simple gospel message.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 10:44-48.** *When* did the Holy Spirit come upon these Gentiles (Acts 11:15)? *When* did the Holy Spirit come upon the Samaritans (Acts 8:12-17)?
- (b) What can you conclude from these experiences? What do you think God was teaching them (Acts 15:8-9)?
- (c) Some say a person must be baptized to be saved. What does Acts 10:44-48 show us? Were they saved? Had they been baptized yet?
- (d) What did Philip tell the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:36-37? What was the one requirement Philip gave for baptism? Which came first: baptism or salvation?
- (e) What was Peter's attitude toward baptism? Did he consider it optional?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 10:44-48. Note the different ways people have been converted so far in Acts. What does this teach us about the grace of God? What is baptism? Why is it important? Does it save you? Spend some time praising God for the many ways He works to bring salvation to people.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 10. What was God doing in Cornelius to bring him to faith? What is God's promise to those who seek Him? What was God doing in Peter to prepare him to share the gospel? What barriers in your life keep you from sharing the gospel? What is the gospel? Can you share it with someone in 5-10 minutes? Pray for your church this morning that the message of the gospel might be clear and that believers might be excited about sharing it!

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The Conversion of the Gentiles

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile ... for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”