

Peter's Need for Gospel Growth (Acts 10:9-23)

- God had CHOSEN and BLESSED the Jews to be a BLESSING to all the Gentile nations. (Genesis 12:1-4)
- The Jews got the CHOOSING part, but forgot the BLESSING part.
- Jewish ELECTION tragically led to PREJUDICED SEPARATION.
- The 3 “hammer blows” God uses before Peter will even step foot in the home of Cornelius . . .
 1. The SHEET from heaven. (10:9-16)
 2. The angel telling Peter to GO. (10:19-20)
 3. The angel telling Cornelius to FIND Peter. (10:21-22)



Peter's Peculiar Vision

Acts 9:32 - 10:23
Sunday, April 23, 2017

Since Acts 7, the groundwork for the spread of the Gospel to the Gentiles has been laid. And now here in chapters 9 and 10 it finally begins to happen! Here God sovereignly brings together Peter, the Apostle and Cornelius, the Gentile centurion...

Peter's Apostolic Authentication (Acts 9:32-43)

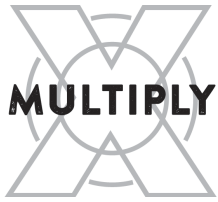
The Healing of Aeneas & the Raising of Tabitha

- Peter does the MIRACLES of Jesus.
- Peter acts with the POWER of Jesus.
- Peter advances the MISSION of Jesus.

PETER will be used by God to authenticate PAUL'S mission to the Gentiles for the Early Church.

Cornelius' Need for Gospel Salvation (Acts 10:1-8)

- Cornelius responded to the “LIGHT” he had.
- Cornelius was a GOOD man, but it was not ENOUGH.
- Cornelius still NEEDS and is LED to salvation in Jesus.



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Connecting & Caring Together (about 20 min.)

In this 3rd week of Growth Groups, don't neglect sharing your burdens and carrying one another's burdens. Share your joys and trials together.

Grappling with God's Word Together (about 20 - 30 min.)

1. How did you "come under" God's Word in the message this week?
Share one personal takeaway from the message.
2. Go back and review Acts 7-10. What sorts of things have happened to prepare the Early Church for the mission to the Gentiles?
3. What purpose do Peter's miracles serve at the end of the chapter 9?
Why must we be re-introduced to Peter and what are we being told about him?
4. What do we know about Cornelius? In what ways is he recognized as good? How does the text tell us he still needs salvation in Jesus? Who are some of the "good people" you know who still need Jesus? Does their goodness inhibit you in sharing Jesus with them?

5. What was Peter's perspective, viewpoint and attitude toward Gentiles?
In other words, why and how does Peter need to grow in his understanding of the Gospel?
6. Read Genesis 12:1-4. How does this text relate to Acts 10?
7. What 3 things must God do to move Peter to enter the home of Cornelius?
8. We, too, are chosen and blessed to be a blessing, but often forget the blessing part. What is the blessing we have to share with others around us and how can we better do that?

Praying Together (about 20 min.)

As you share and pray for one another's needs, pray that God would grow us to be a blessing to others around us. Pray by name for the Cornelius-like good people around you who need Jesus.