

Bible Study Group Notes

Acts 10.1–33

THE STORY SO FAR

Acts continues to show what the risen Lord Jesus is doing through His church. So far, the gospel has spread mainly among Jews, with some key exceptions. In this passage, a turning point unfolds as God begins to make clear that the good news of Jesus is for all people. The focus is not only on human openness, but on God's initiative in bringing people near.

Read Acts 10.1-33.

INVESTIGATE

1. How is Cornelius described in 10.1-2? What stands out about his character?
2. What does the angel say about Cornelius in 10.4, and what instructions are given in 10.5-6?
3. What do these verses suggest about God's awareness of and response to Cornelius?
4. What does Peter see in his vision (10.11-12), and what command is he given (10.13)?
5. How does Peter respond (10.14), and why?
6. What is the key statement in 10.15, and why is it significant?
7. Why do you think the vision is repeated (10.16)?
8. What is Peter's initial reaction to the vision (10.17)?
9. How does God guide Peter in 10.19-20?
10. What significant step does Peter take in 10.23-29?

11. How does Peter explain what he has learned in 10.28?

12. How does Cornelius describe his experience in 10.30-32?

13. What attitude do we see in 10.33 as the household gathers? What are they expecting?

REFLECT

14. What do you notice about God's initiative in this passage – in both Cornelius's life and Peter's?

15. How does this passage challenge assumptions about who is "near" or "far" from God?

APPLY

16. Where might we (personally or as a church) make assumptions about who is likely or unlikely to respond to the gospel?

17. What might it look like to help people today come "into hearing range" of the message about Jesus?

18. How can we cultivate the kind of posture seen in 10.33—ready to listen to what God has said?

PRAY

- Thank God that He takes the initiative in drawing people to Himself.
- Pray for openness to His leading, both in our thinking and our actions.
- Ask that many would be brought near to hear and respond to the message of Christ.

NB The Church Prayer Pointers for this month are available in church or on the WhatsApp group.