

March 24, 2021 Acts 10

Main point – God is for everyone, he shows no favoritism.

Tonight's study comes from Acts 10. I hope both you and your students find this lesson to be interesting as a history lesson and encouraging as you make a personal connection. We are going to break the section down into three parts:

**First** – Cornelius the gentile is called by God

**Second** – Peter has a vision from God

**Third** – Peter and Cornelius come together

From a historical perspective, I hope this passage hits home with everyone. It's a huge moment in the bible where the gospel is given to gentiles (aka, someone who isn't Jewish), which is us! That means this passage has huge implications for most of us and our past ancestors.

Going forward, I hope we can remember Peter's conversion as well. My hope is the students can begin to see how Peter was also converted during this time. Understanding he had deeply rooted ideas around how he should treat gentiles and how God spoke to him and transformed his heart so that he might further God's kingdom. There could be an opportunity to talk about some implicit bias here. Peter and the Jews' bias was very well stated and were broken down. Our explicit biases might be easier to tackle, but I bet there are fewer and farther between than our implicit biases. I hope this might be the kids an opportunity to bring any sort of those thoughts to the front of our minds so they aren't hiding and doing "secret" damages to potential relationships!

Things to Consider/Questions>

Part I

a. Things to consider/questions>

- i. Hammer home the point that praying and good works don't get you to heaven!  
It was hard for me to not focus on Cornelius' good deeds earning his way to a peg above the other gentiles and therefore viewed as worthy by God to be saved. At the time, you were either Jewish or you weren't. The main point of this first sections is to realize the plan God is setting in motion – picking a gentile to begin the universal spread of the Gospel.
- ii. Cornelius is a Roman Gentile, and a soldier at that. How about the fact that God chose a man from the group of people who were responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus??

- iii. do students ever see people who aren't Christians whose actions are aligned with Jesus' teachings? Do they think these people get into heaven without Jesus?
- iv. Do they ever find themselves performing good deeds for the sake of themselves or others rather than for the glory of Jesus?
- v. Do you find people in your life you don't want to associated with or think you aren't allowed to hang out with?

## Part II

### Things to consider/questions>

- vi. Has God ever shocked you with a calling?
- vii. What about asking multiple times? Give some examples of times you've personally tried to live a certain way, despite what seems like countless times of trying to correct yourself or receive direction from God.
  - 1. Can also talk about smaller asks from teacher, coach, parent, \*cough\* D-Group Leader \*cough\*
- viii. Have you ever thought direction or guidance from a teacher/coach/mentor was crazy at first?
- ix. What is different about Peter when comparing him from the beginning of this section to the end?
  - 1. Hint: Prior to the vision, no unclean food or visiting with Gentiles. At the end, he accepts God's command, he readily goes with the group of Gentiles sent by Cornelius.

## Part III

### b. Things to consider/questions>

- i. Have you ever tried to bend God's will into your own? Pick and choose the commands that he has for us that we want to follow?  
"Make God more like me, rather than making myself more like Him"
- ii. Have you ever felt "better" than someone else? Have you ever had to deflect praise when it wasn't warranted?
- iii. What is the importance of verses 34 & 35? Personally? Globally?
  - 1. Without this action, we wouldn't receive the gift of the Gospel and Holy Spirit. Globally, same goes for anyone of non-Jewish decent.
- iv. Historical significance is noted above (perspective), but if we believe and understand this, what should this mean for us in terms of how we live going forward (prospective)?
  - 1. We shouldn't withhold the gospel from any groups of people, not matter how they are different from us.
  - 2. Does anyone feel like they exclude certain people from social activities? Groups at school? You could \*\*carefully\*\* discuss what excluding fellow d-groupers looks like.