

# Small Group Discussion Guide

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**Series:** To Be Sent

**Week 2:** Acts 10

**Main Idea:** Because the good news of Jesus is for everyone, we must let God confront our prejudices and preferences, obey the Spirit's prompting, and extend the grace we have received to the people He sends us to.

## Reference Text

Acts 10:1-6, Acts 10:9-16, Acts 10:19-29, Acts 10:34-43, Acts 10:44-48, Galatians 5, Revelation 7:9-10

## **Context**

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Acts 10 tells the story of Cornelius, a Gentile Roman centurion, and Peter, a Jewish apostle of Jesus. Cornelius was religious, generous, and prayerful, but he still needed to hear the good news of Jesus. At the same time, Peter needed God to confront the barriers in his own heart before he would go into Cornelius's home. The sermon described this as "a very rare but powerful conversion story" because we see both sides: the person receiving the gospel and the person being sent to share it.

This passage shows that God is already at work in seeking hearts, that He confronts our prejudices and preferences, and that He schedules divine appointments. Peter came to understand that "God doesn't show favoritism" and that "everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins."

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## **Key Takeaways**

- **God is at work in seeking hearts.**  
Cornelius was not yet a follower of Jesus, but God was already drawing him, hearing his prayers, and preparing him to receive the gospel.
- **God confronts our prejudices and preferences.**  
Peter's vision was not just about food. God was confronting the categories Peter used to decide who was clean, welcome, or worthy.
- **God schedules divine appointments.**  
Peter and Cornelius did not meet by accident. The Spirit was leading both sides before either one fully understood what God was doing.
- **The good news is for everyone.**  
Peter preached Jesus crucified and risen, then declared that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.
- **The Holy Spirit confirms His work.**  
The Spirit came upon the Gentiles, showing Peter and the Jewish believers that Gentile believers were fully included in the people of God.

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- **Grace received must become grace extended.**

The sermon's closing call was to remember who we are: acknowledge our need for Christ's grace, receive Christ's grace, and extend Christ's grace to others.

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1. **Read Acts 10:1-6.** Cornelius is described as devout, prayerful, generous, and respected, yet he still needed to hear the message of Jesus. What stands out to you about Cornelius's life and God's response to him? How does this passage help us see that being religious or moral is not the same as receiving the gospel?
2. **The sermon reminded us that "God is at work in seeking hearts."** When God sends Peter to Cornelius, He has already been working in Cornelius's life. How might this truth change the way we think about people who seem far from Jesus? Where do fear, assumptions, or discouragement keep us from believing God may already be working?
3. **Read Acts 10:9-16.** Peter sees a vision, and God tells him, "What God has made clean, do not call impure." What was God revealing to Peter through this vision? What does this teach us about the heart of God and the reach of the gospel?
4. **The message said that "God confronts our prejudices and our preferences."** Peter had categories for who was clean, unclean, near, far, included, or excluded. What are some ways Christians today can still live by preference, comfort, background, politics, class, race, personality, or past sin instead of by the gospel? How can we invite God to expose and change those places in us?
5. **Read Acts 10:19-29.** Peter obeys the Spirit, enters Cornelius's home, and humbly explains what God has been doing in his own heart. Why is Peter's humility important in this moment? How does sharing what God is correcting in us change the way we approach hard conversations with others?
6. **The sermon said, "God schedules divine appointments."** Peter would not have naturally chosen Cornelius, and Cornelius would not have naturally known to call Peter without God's direction. Can you think of a time when God placed someone in your path for a reason? What might faithful obedience look like when the Spirit prompts us toward someone we would rather avoid?

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7. **Read Acts 10:34-43.** Peter's message centers on Jesus: His life, death, resurrection, and the forgiveness offered through His name. Why must our witness stay centered on what Jesus has done, not just on morality, church attendance, or personal advice? How can we depend on the Holy Spirit to give us courage and words when we share the gospel?
8. **The sermon asked, "Who's your Cornelius?"** Cornelius may be someone far from Jesus, someone religious but not surrendered to Christ, or someone we have quietly assumed would never respond. Without forcing anyone to overshare, who comes to mind when you hear that question? What makes it difficult for you to move toward that person?
9. **Read Acts 10:44-48.** The Holy Spirit comes upon the Gentiles, and Peter sees that they have received the same grace Jewish believers had received. How does this moment connect personal salvation to a bigger witness before the world? What would it look like for our group or church to live as if there are "no dividers any longer" in the family of God?
10. **The sermon ended with the reminder to remember who we are: acknowledge our need for Christ's grace, receive Christ's grace, and extend Christ's grace to others.** Which part of that response do you most need this week? What is one concrete step you can take to pray for, contact, serve, or share the good news with your Cornelius?

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- **Acknowledge** your need for Christ's grace every day — stay humble and hungry for more of Him.
  - **Receive** grace for yourself — you can only give what you possess.
  - **Extend** Christ's grace to others — even to your Cornelius; obedience may plant seeds or bear immediate fruit.