

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

This week Gateway celebrates what God is doing both here in our community and beyond with the annual Global Impact Celebration (GIC). One of the great things about the GIC is that it gives the opportunity to connect with missionaries from all over the world, and in so doing helps us realize that Jesus’ directive to tell everyone everywhere (Matt. 28:18-20) is still applicable for us today. It also reminds us that God is actively arranging our circumstances to help us get the Good News out! To get your group started, let group members tell about any involvement they’ve had in missions or a mission trip...

BIG THOUGHT

God wants to use us to let others know about Jesus, but for that to happen we have to be willing to be obedient as He leads us.

Dig

1. Our passage today will look at an example of how God works in and through our efforts to let others know about Him. Read Acts 10:1-2. What things do we learn about Cornelius? When Luke (the writer of Acts) says that Cornelius was devout and God-fearing, he’s letting us know that Cornelius was spiritually minded but wasn’t yet a personal follower of Jesus. How would you describe your past understanding of God? Has it changed? How?
2. Now read v. 3-8. What surprises you the most about what happened to Cornelius? What are some of the ways God gets our attention or gives us direction today? Do you think He still sends angels? Why or why not?

3. Now read read v. 9-18. Why do you think the vision was repeated three times? Now imagine yourself in Peter's situation, having been taught from childhood that certain animals (and types of people) were unclean and to be avoided. How do you think you would have responded to the vision? Is it hard for you to step outside of your comfort zone to share with someone else? Explain.
4. Read v. 19-27. Because both of these men were obedient to God’s leading, Cornelius was able to hear about Jesus. What do you think would have happened if either one (or both) hadn’t followed God’s leading - do you think God would have arranged another opportunity? What does this teach us about our role in God’s process of bringing others to Himself?
5. To finish, read v. 28-48. What would your response have been when you learned what God had been doing behind the scenes to bring about this meeting? Have you ever been a part of a “divine appointment” like this (on either side)? What happened? And are there things we can do to be more open to God using us in this way? Discuss as a group.

Take it Further

Talk with God, and thank Him by name for the people He has used (or is using) to bring you into a relationship with Him - then ask Him to make you sensitive to follow His leadings so that *you’re* ready to reach the people He places in *your* life!

Daily Readings

Day 1: 1 Peter 3:15
Day 2: Colossians 4:5-6
Day 3: Isaiah 6:8

Day 4: Mark 16:15
Day 5: Acts 1:8
Day 6: Acts 8:26-40

Memory Verses: Acts 10:42-43



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