

# Good News of Great Joy for All People

Acts 10:1-23

December 1, 2019

BIG IDEA—God is at work, bringing people who need to hear the good news, together with people who need to tell the good news.

1. God **interrupts** Cornelius' prayer (10:1-8)
  - a. Cornelius was religious, but without **Christ**
    - **Gentile** (not Jewish), a Roman army officer
    - devout, God-fearing, gave alms, prayed "at all times"
  - b. God sends an **angel**
    - tells him that God **knows** your prayers and gifts
    - gives **specific** instructions and Cornelius obeys
2. God interrupts Peter's prayer (10:9-16)
  - a. Peter is **the** key figure in building Christ's church (Matt. 16)  
"In Jerusalem **and** all Judea and Samaria **and** to the ends of the earth"
  - b. God sends a **vision**
    - this is direct from God, from **heaven** (10:11, 16)
    - large sheet with all kinds of unclean animals (see Lev. 11)
    - voice says to Peter, "Rise, kill (sacrifice) and eat."
    - Peter strongly **refuses**, "Not so! . . . never . . ."  
(see Leviticus 11:44-45)
    - voice, "Stop calling 'common' what God has made clean."  
(see also Mark 7:17-19; Rom. 14:1-3; 1 Tim. 4:3-5)
    - Repeated 3x for **emphasis**, then it's over
3. God has Peter wondering what this all means (10:17-23a)
  - a. The Spirit **prompts** Peter each step of the way
  - b. Finally, Cornelius' men and Peter meet

*In the Hebrew Scriptures, a reluctant prophet set sail from Joppa to go out of his way to avoid taking a message of repentance and grace to Gentiles. The prophet's name was Jonah. What will Peter do? Will he obey God's clear direction or run the other way? What will you do?*

## Life Group Homework

1. COMPARE Genesis 12:3; Luke 2:10; John 3:16. To what extent does God want to share the blessings of repentance and belief in Jesus' name? Are any left out?
2. *agree/disagree* Cornelius was a good man who pleased God.
3. Which group(s) of people do you have a problem with? What would God have to do for you to invite some of them to your house for a meal?
4. Luke often points out that significant spiritual advances occur during times of prayer. (Maybe one reason our Enemy works so hard to keep us from praying is to keep us from advancing.) Look up the verses and note what happened during prayer.  

Luke 3:21-22	_____
Luke 6:12-16	_____
Luke 9:18-22	_____
Luke 9:28-31	_____
Luke 22:39-46	_____
Acts 1:14; 23-26	_____
Acts 13:1-3	_____
5. BRAINSTORM together as a group how you can encourage each other to share "good news of great joy with **all people**" this Christmas season.