



TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for July 31-August 6, 2022

ACTS IN 30 Chapter 10: *The Holy Spirit Fills Gentile Believers*

CHAPTER OVERVIEW: Acts 10 reads like a “breaking news alert” for the young Jerusalem church. Up to this point, the Gospel had been primarily oriented to Jews who received Jesus as their Messiah. Jesus was Jewish, the Apostles were Jewish, and the 120 who waited in the Upper Room for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit were all Jewish. But now - in this chapter - we see for the very first time the inclusion of Gentile believers into the church without having to follow traditional Jewish practices. Salvation for the Nations starts here and continues to reach “*the ends of the earth*” today (Acts 1:8)!

DAY 1: Angels Visit Cornelius: A Devoted Gentile Centurion

READ: Acts 10:1-8

REFLECT: A Roman centurion named Cornelius was described as a “*devout*” Gentile who – along with his household – “*feared God,*” gave “*generously*” to God’s work in his community and “*prayed continuously.*” Although he was not Jewish, his good works demonstrated a genuine heart to please God. The Lord took notice of him and sent His angels to give Cornelius and his household the plan of salvation by inviting the Apostle Peter into his home to tell them about Jesus.

DISCUSS:

Context Question: What are some habits of Cornelius’ life that became a “*memorial*” to the Lord and got God’s attention?

Application Question: What are 1-2 areas of devotion to God that you can potentially grow in this season?

DAY 2: Peter Prays, Jesus Gives Him a Vision and the Holy Spirit Brings Understanding

READ: Acts 10:9-33

REFLECT: Peter must have had a connection to the number 3. Three times he denied Jesus (Luke 22:54-62), three times he affirmed his love for Jesus (John 21:15-19), and after 3 times in this passage, Peter finally obeys Jesus (Acts 10:23). Although this really must have stretched Peter’s faith, he eventually obeyed God. NOTE: Peter did not fully comprehend this vision until the Holy Spirit gave him the understanding (vs. 19-20). We must always remember to pause & ask the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom & understanding today as well.

DISCUSS:

Context Question: What do you think the Lord was really trying to teach Peter by commanding him to “eat” things forbidden by Jewish food laws?

Application Question: Describe a time when the Lord really “stretched” you personally to obey him in a certain area of your life?

DAY 3: God Doesn’t Have “Favorite” Kids – Jewish and Gentile Believers are Now One New Family

READ: Acts 10:34-43

REFLECT: After hearing Cornelius’ testimony of how God spoke to him, Peter replies, “*I see clearly that the Lord does not show partiality*” (vs. 34). This means that anyone – regardless of ethnicity, geography, or economic status – can become a disciple of Jesus. Jesus told the Apostles to go and “*make disciples of every nation*” (Matt. 28:19), but many times they hesitated or resisted sharing Jesus with those who were not Jewish. Here in Acts 10 God made His intentions very clear!

DISCUSS:

Context Question: Why do you think it was hard sometimes for Jewish followers of Jesus to share the Gospel with those who may have looked, acted, or thought differently than they did?

Application Question: Have you ever hesitated/resisted sharing Jesus with someone that was maybe a lot different than you are?

DAY 4: Gentile Believers Receive the Holy Spirit

READ: Acts 10:44-48

REFLECT: As Peter was sharing the Good News of Jesus with Cornelius and his household, the Holy Spirit falls upon them (vs. 44). The Jewish people with Peter were amazed because this had only happened on Shavuot (Day of Pentecost) to the Jewish believers previously (Acts 2). Now, the Holy Spirit falls on the Gentiles, fulfilling God’s promise to Abraham (Gen 17:5) and the prophecy of Joel 2:28-32.

DISCUSS:

Context Question: What are some of the distinctions between being baptized in the Holy Spirit versus being baptized in water?

Application Question: Have you personally experienced one, or both before? If so, what were those experience(s) like? If not, is this a next step for you in your journey of faith with Jesus? If yes, what are some steps you need take to take this week?
