

## Life Group and Personal Study Questions

### Acts 10-11:18

#### LIFE GROUP

1. Are there any reflection questions from the bulletin that would be good starters for your Life Group?
2. Have you ever found it difficult to be on the receiving end of someone's efforts to help or encourage you? If so, why do think that was?
3. Are you a very God-fearing person? If evaluated by how you treated others this past week, what would others say?
4. Have someone read aloud Acts 10:1-4. What memorial offering does your lifestyle present before God? How does Cornelius' life challenge you?
5. What new relationships has God given you lately? How has He brought these people into your life? How has this influenced you or how have you influenced them?
6. Consider the make-up of our church (ethnically, socially, politically, age-wise). Are there some people who would assume that our church is just not for them? Are there some things we could do to change or remove those barriers? How would you feel about making those changes?
7. Have someone read Acts 11:23. What would you consider as evidence that the grace of God is at work in your life? In the life of New City Church?
8. Take a few minutes to offer a word of thanks or encouragement to various members of your Life Group
9. Prayer is an important part of being in Life Group. Take some time to pray as a group. Over the years I've found that group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.

#### PERSONAL STUDY

Chapter 10 teaches us that God can be full of surprises. God can step in and turn our world upside down even when we think we have things well under control. We often joke about how well or how poorly we multi-task. In Acts chapter 10, we observe multi-tasking at its best where God is speaking to two different men and preparing them to meet in order to further the building of His kingdom. In fact, what God intends to do through these two very different men, will ultimately change the world. The events of Acts 10 will challenge your way of thinking, your prejudices, and your traditions. There is much to learn about how God uses people, who he chooses to use and why.



Read Acts 10 and 11

We often ponder why God does not provide us opportunity to serve Him. More than likely, the answer can be found in what we have done with past opportunities. Have we been faithful to serve, faithful in our prayers and commitment? What have you done with the opportunities to serve God?

It's no surprise that it can be challenging to reach out to or accept those who are different or have a belief system contrary to our own. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-16. How does the Apostle Paul's understanding of his past and what God did for him impact his viewpoint of others?

What instructions does Jesus give us in Matthew 5:43-46 when it comes to inviting and welcoming everyone to the "dinner"? What are some reasons that make it difficult to follow these instructions?

Look at Leviticus 11:4-7, 13-19, 29-30. With these restrictions, how do you think Peter felt when he heard the voice order him to eat these animals? Why is it repeated 3 times? What would the new principle in Acts 10:15 mean to Peter?

How might Luke 7:1-10 encourage Peter to listen to the men who came seeking Peter?

Jews regarded people like Cornelius as pagans, unless they fully submitted to Jewish practices. (see Acts 10:28) What is the main point of Peter's sermon Acts 10:34-43? How does it compare to his previous sermons in Acts 2:36-39 and Acts 3:17-23? From these three sermons what do you see as being central to the gospel message?

Looking at Acts 11:1-18, why do you think Luke took the time and space to record the events of Acts 10 all over again?

God always has a next step in your Christian pilgrimage. There is always something new to be learned and experienced. There is always a new understanding of His will to be revealed. This usually happens in three steps: He creates willingness in our heart to learn and receive His revelation. He opens our eyes and understanding to the truth of the scripture. He provides a sign or experience in our daily relationships or activity as confirmation. Peter speaks of what God has shown Him. What has God shown you? Are you growing in your relationship with God? God has a next step for you in your Christian pilgrimage. What prevents you from taking that next step?