



the upside down series
week nine: God's mysterious ways

1. God responds to those who _____ Him.
2. God uses those who _____ Him.
3. God _____ every situation.
4. God prepares his people _____.
5. God gives the _____ to all who believe in Him.
6. God extends His _____ on all through Christ.

Paul's life has been radically transformed by Christ. What an exciting time for the local church! Meanwhile, we're going to spend the next couple of chapters wrapping things up with Peter. This week is going to blow you away. God is about to extend His grace to the Gentiles (that's us in case you're wondering!!). I'm so thankful for His grace.



day one: what is it, Lord?

So much has happened to Peter since Jesus' resurrection. It's hard to believe. This week we will study how God uses Peter to reach out to the Gentiles.

Now Read Acts 10:1-8.

exploring the text

1. To get some context, read Acts 9:43. What is the significance of Peter staying at the house of one named Simon, a tanner?
2. Write down everything we are told about Cornelius in today's reading.

3. What evidence was there in Cornelius that the Holy Spirit was working in him?

4. What do you learn about the character of God from his response to Cornelius through the angel in vs. 3-6?

5. What was Cornelius doing when God spoke to him?

6. Why do you think God took notice of Cornelius according to vs.4?

interesting fact

Acts 10 is a watershed moment in the history of the church. The one true God - the God of the Hebrews - is about to unveil His eternal plan for the Gentiles.



day two: speak Lord

While God was working on Cornelius, Peter was having his own perspective adjustment! Today we will focus on Peter's part of this great story.

Read Acts 10:9-23. Ask God to reveal Himself to you in a fresh way as you study His word!

exploring the text

1. How did God prepare Peter for the meeting with Cornelius?
2. What insights into Peter's character can you pick up from today's reading?
3. What habits did Peter have that allowed him to be used mightily by God?

interesting fact

Luke has now recounted the conversions of Saul and Cornelius. Saul was a Jew, Cornelius a gentile. Saul was a scholar, Cornelius a soldier. Saul was a bigot, Cornelius a seeker. But both were converted by the gracious initiative of God. Both received forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Spirit. Both were baptized and welcomed into the Christian family on equal terms.

4. Read Leviticus 11:20, 25. How did Jews look upon the creatures seen on the sheet?

verse

Romans 1:16

The gospel of Christ is still the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

5. How did the command to kill and eat affect Peter in vs.14?

6. What happened in vs.17 while Peter was processing what God had told him?

7. Vs. 19 is a very important verse. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in that verse?

8. What would have happened if Peter and Cornelius did not obey what God had said?



day three: answered prayer

Are you ready to start? I hope you are making spending time with the Lord a priority in your life.

Read Acts 10:23-33.

exploring the text

1. What was Cornelius expecting when Peter arrived?
2. What does vs.26 reveal about Peter's heart?
3. Do you think Peter may have been surprised to see a larger group of people waiting for him?
4. Focus on vs.28. What motivated Peter to go to Caesarea? Did it go against the cultural norm and expectation?

5. In vs.33, what is the attitude that Cornelius has towards the things of the Lord?
6. In Ephesians 2:11-22 Paul gives a theological explanation of the historical events recorded in Acts. Read it.
- What is the gist of Paul's argument?
 - Who became the hope of the Gentiles when they were without hope?
 - List some of the things that Jesus did for us.
 - What can we claim now that we are in Christ?

verse

Ephesians 2:12-13

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the lamb.



day four: one in Christ

Peter is finally at the house of Cornelius and he is about to get it. Don't you love that moment when what God has been trying to say finally sinks in? I do!

Pray that whatever it is that God has been telling you finally sinks in today!

Now read Acts 10:34-43.

exploring the text

1. What truth does Peter grasp for the first time in vs.34?
2. What was God's message to the Jews?
3. What people were guilty of the crucifixion of Jesus according to vs.39?

interesting fact

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red and yellow black and white they are precious in his sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world.



day five: Holy Spirit fall

We are wrapping up a big week in Bible Study. Let's finish Acts 10 by reading vs. 44-48.

exploring the text

1. What happened while Peter was preaching the gospel?

2. How did the Jewish believers respond to what happened?

3. What is Peter's response to the work of God?

interesting fact

The heart of Jesus Christ cries for unity in His church. In John 17:21 Jesus prays that believers "may be one, as You, Father are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent me." NKJV.

4. What followed the baptism with the Holy Spirit in vs.47?

