

# Sermon Notes

"A Gospel for the Nations"

Acts 10:34 – 11:18

January 27, 2019

c. On what did Peter's defense rest (11:17)? What was the significance of this whole episode (11:17-18), and why was it so important?

d. Why do you think God needed to use such extraordinary means as a trance and a vivid outpouring of the Spirit to get across the message of 10:34-35 and 11:18?

## Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

*Jeff and Terri Sprecher - Mission Impact, Guatemala*

Pray for the many new construction projects: a nursing school in Proximos Pasos, continued construction on the community center in Santa Lucia, an agriculture tech center in San Pedro El Cerro. Pray also for 12 homes for families who lost everything in the volcanic eruption.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 01-27-19

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 201-202; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 109-112.

## Getting Started:

1. What favorite story do you like retelling?

## Digging Deeper:

2. Refresh your memory of the circumstances leading up to today's passage by re-reading Acts 10:21-35.
  - a. How did Cornelius show that he feared God and did what was right (10:35; see also 10:1-8, 30-33)?
  - b. Peter said God was willing to accept all those "who fear him and do what is right" (10:35). Did this mean that Cornelius' good deeds had earned him salvation? Why or why not, in light of the whole context of the story (especially 10:22, 33, 43-48)?
3. Peter's speech to this Gentile household differed in several ways from what he said to Jewish audiences. Read Acts 10:36-43.
  - a. What key points did he make in this instance?
  - b. Why was each aspect of Peter's sermon important for

the Gentiles to grasp if they were to have a good understanding of Jesus? (Also, how is each aspect important to you?)

- c. How is 10:34-43 a model for a way you can explain the gospel to people you encounter?

4. Read Acts 10:44-48.

- a. What unprecedented thing happened in the middle of Peter's speech (10:44-46)?
- b. What did this signify?
- c. Why were Peter's fellow Jewish believers astonished (10:45)?

5. Read Acts 11:1-18.

- a. What shocked the Jerusalem church most about the rumors from Caesarea was not that Peter had baptized Gentiles. What shocked them most, and why (11:1-3)?
- b. Consider Peter's account of the events (11:4-17). Why do you think Peter told the whole story behind his actions?