

## Jesus is for Everyone!

### Welcome/ Easter/ Saturday night- Friends, room

**Intro:** This is a crucial turning point in redemptive, missional history. Remember what Jesus said in **Acts 1:8**, "After the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The Church was birthed in Jerusalem, **Acts 2**. The church spreads to Judea and Samaria in **Acts 8-9**. In **chapter 10** the gospel breaks out and the church welcomes Gentiles into the family of God. Which is great for us, right? The word Gentile means a person who is not Jewish. This marks the moment historically when the gospel spread beyond the early Jewish believers. Now, keep in mind, the gospel has always been for all people. Ruth, Rahab, Nineveh (Assyrians) and Jethro (Midianite).

**Read: Acts 10:1-48**

#### 1. God is working on Cornelius.

**Explain:** Cornelius is a Gentile, a Roman, and a soldier. Generally, he would have been hated by the Jews but Cornelius was respected. He is a God-fearing man which means, God has been working on his heart. **I wonder how?**

- Influence of Christ Followers
- Roman Paganism was lacking.
- Moral relativism produces brokenness.
- Money, power did not satisfy.
- Suffering, I am more vulnerable than I realized. I need God.
- No pressure, God is already at work!

**Illustrate:** Alex- Getting married, David- New to town, Aaron- Wanting to learn about God, Nathan- looking for a church.

**Argue:** **Revelation 3:20**

**Apply:** If you will engage with people around you, you will find God is already at work. There are plenty of people who are not interested. I just build a friendship and wait for that to change. For those who are open I invite them to take the journey. Bible study, church, prayer group. This is also why it is important for church to be that kind of place. Where we can invite our friends, to explore faith and decide if they want to take the journey. Do you remember what it was like walking into church for the first time? Treat our guest well.

#### 2. God is working on Peter.

**Explain:** Sometimes, God has to work on the messenger. Peter is a Jew and an Apostle. It would be hard for him to imagine God was speaking to a Gentile and certainly not a Roman soldier. How could this be? God give us eyes to see! **Often the person we least expect.**

**Illustrate:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, she was mean, "I thought you would be in prison."

### **Argue: Matthew 9:36-38**

**What blinds us?** For Peter, it was religion. Sometimes God must dismantle our religious thinking in order to expand our mission. God gives Peter a vision to explain the law.

**What was the purpose of the OT law?**

- **A Tutor**- The law exposes our need for a savior.
- **A Boundary**- The law protects us and allows our soul to flourish.
- **A Shadow**- The Law helps us look forward with anticipation for the savior.

**Three Types of Law:**

- Ceremonial, Mark 7:19 (not what goes in your mouth but what comes out) HS
- Sacrificial, Hebrews 9-10 (Jesus, once and for all)
- Moral, Matthew 5:18 (I did not come to destroy the law...)

**What blinds us?** Distractions, affluence, entertainment, politics

**Apply:** Give us eyes to see! People around us who need Jesus.

### **3. God schedules a meeting.**

**Explain:** God creates divine appointments! God brings Peter and Cornelius together.

**Illustrate:** Camp Caraway- My heart, My leader, my mom, that student. This has happened many times. A teacher, a coach, a parent, and church member. God has brought many people into my life, who each played an important part in my spiritual journey. The little things you do may totally change the life of the person you are serving.

**Illustrate:** Neighborhood- Jason and Matt

**Explain:** Peter tells Cornelius about Jesus, he tells his story, he is a **witness**.

**Argue: Matthew 28:19, Go! Live on mission!**

- Show a genuine interest
- Build rapport around common interest- sports, family, work, leadership...
- Identify an opportunity or need (**Alex- Dig a Trench**)

**Apply:** God put you in that job, neighborhood, family, school, dorm, gym, or club.

### **4. God validates His purpose by His presence.**

**Explain:** This is a “Gentile Pentecost.” While Peter is still speaking, the Holy Spirit falls on all who hear. Jewish believers are astonished because the gift of the Spirit is poured out on Gentiles. This is the same thing that happened to us! They speak in tongues and praise God. Peter commands that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. They would not have believed it if they did not see it themselves.

**The gospel destroys racism and all cultural division!**

- **We all need Jesus.** There are good and bad in every race. That is not a skin issue but a heart issue.

## Monthly Practice: Bible Study

- **We all need relationships with people who are different from us.** When you are with people from a different culture and really get to know them most of your stereotypes fail. They have the same dreams, same challenges, and fighting the same battles.
- **We get to see people grow and change.** I guess I was wrong.
- Our diversity is something we have to fight for and protect. Sometimes it is difficult but we have to talk it out and learn from each other and allow God's word not culture have the final say.

**Argue: Genesis 1-2, we are all created in the image of God! Ephesians 2:11-22**

**Apply:** We are family!

## Prayer for Easter