

ACTS

OF THE APOSTLES

Nov. 14 – 15
Lesson 10

Move Beyond Your Bubble: To Bring Peace Between All People Groups

This Discussion Guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements, but members can still interact even if they missed the sermon. To use this guide in your Community Group, try to work through the questions on your own before you meet. You might not get to all of the questions, and that's okay. If your Community Group does not meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series.

MAIN TEXT: Acts 10

SUMMARY OF THE SERIES: The Acts of the Apostles describes the beginning of the church missional movement that was started by the resurrected Jesus. Most importantly, the church's power and strength comes from the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, the church ceases to be the church. Followers of Jesus have the Holy Spirit at conversion and receive a new nature, but Acts shows us how we need continual filling of the Holy Spirit to be the church engaged on mission. Of course, we can't manufacture this but need to put ourselves in a position of asking and waiting for the Spirit. Expectation without agenda. And we need to be entering people's world's listening to them, and knowing when to bring the healing words of Jesus and good news of the Kingdom to others if we are to be engaged on mission.

GETTING STARTED

In this past year, we have not only faced a pandemic in our nation, but the harsh reality that racism is still an issue even today. Thankfully, it was an issue even in the 1st century and the church had to deal with it as we will see in Acts 10. To take part in this conversation will require humility and love, so before you begin, take a moment to ask God's Spirit to exhibit both in you.

DISCUSSING THE WORD

1. Read Acts 10:1-33. The racial context of that time was that the Jewish people looked down on Gentiles (non-Jewish), and the Gentiles looked down on Jewish people. This was not God's plan for His people as He wanted them to be a blessing to the world (see Genesis 12) and this would actually happen through the person and work of Jesus (see Ephesians 2:13-14). What is the difficult racial context of our time? What makes it difficult even to talk about?
2. Read Acts 10:28. What did Peter finally understand what God was confronting him about in the vision? What do you think God wants to confront you about to be more self-aware of race and the gospel? How can you put yourself in a posture to learn (maybe check out the Book Resources on the other page)?
3. Read Acts 10:29-48. How did Peter develop into a fuller understanding of the gospel (see v.34)? How does the gospel apply to how your approach people of other races?
4. God had Peter actually go and enter Cornelius' house. How did this help Peter understand? How did it help Peter see God's heart?
5. Reflect on Ephesians 4:4-6 and spend time praying over this passage.

BOOKS & RESOURCES

Insider Outsider by Bryan Loritts

The HD Leader by Derwin Gray

Be the Bridge by Latasha Morrison

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum

Mirror to the Church by Emmanuel Katongole

MISSIONAL RESPONSE TO GOD

1. Think of 2 friends who haven't experience life-change through Jesus. Write them down on a piece of paper and commit to pray for them.
2. Pray for opportunities to get to know them and pray for the filling of God's Spirit for boldness to enter into their pain, their world, their interests, their reality so that you can earn the right to speak into their heart and soul.
3. Invest in getting to know them. Think through these ideas:
 - Is there a need? Then fill it.
 - Is there a hurt? Then heal it.
 - Is there a common interest? Then do it.
4. When God's timing allows, invite them to a Worship Service, Alpha, or any other type of church gathering.

PERSONAL RESPONSE TO GOD

Take the Spiritual Growth Assessment!

A follower of Jesus should be growing spiritually to become more like Jesus. However, sometimes we do not know where we need to grow, or we do not go deep enough with where transformation needs to take place. Or sometimes we feel spiritually stagnated or stuck.

Just as many of us go to the doctor's office to get a baseline health assessment and routine check-ups for our physical and mental health, our spiritual health and total well-being is equally important. This assessment is merely a tool to help you assess the depth of your relationship with God and where you need to grow. Honesty is key. Going deep in your relationship with God is the goal.

As you complete the assessment, avoid rushing. Listen for God's voice to encourage and challenge you. Consider this experience as one-on-one time with Him. Be intentional in your growth towards Christlikeness. The answers you give will be helpful for you to understand where you need to grow and you will be able to develop your own personal plan.

You can access the Assessment on the Adult Ministries web page.