



G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

Thank you for reaching me with your love and truth when I was far off. Lead me to engage those around me with that same love and truth.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Acts 10:1-23)

1 Now there was a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, 2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!" 4 And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. 5 Now dispatch some men to Joppa and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter; 6 he is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea." 7 When the angel who was speaking to him had left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants, 8 and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

*9 On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; 11 and he *saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, 12 and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. 13 A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" 14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." 15 Again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy." 16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.*

17 Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate; 18 and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. 19 While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. 20 But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself." 21 Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?" 22 They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous

and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you." 23 So he invited them in and gave them lodging.

Family Discipleship Resource

Oct 12-18

(Acts 10:1-23)

O – Observe what God has said

What was God's invitation to Cornelius and Peter?

Why was it especially difficult for Peter to answer this invitation? What barriers kept Peter from answering this invitation in the affirmative?

How does God remove barriers keeping Peter from those who need to know the gospel?

W – Work on Application

Ultimately, Peter learns that whatever barriers that he thought may have kept him from engaging those unlike him with the truth and love of Jesus Christ were self-imposed and/or artificial. Peter and the early Christians who were of Jewish decent could no longer use whatever food was being served at any given table as an excuse not to engage those who needed to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. God was creating opportunities to reach new people in new places and these should be seized.

What barriers traditionally keep people from engaging those that aren't like them?

What barriers can Christians put up that keep them from engaging the lost?

Family Weekly Memory Verse: *"What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy" Acts 10:15*