



1 **OPENING UP: In Acts 9, we are introduced to a woman named Dorcas.** What are some of the positive qualities that stood out to you most about her life? Who do you know who reminds you of her? What would it look like to give more recognition and honor to the “Tabithas” of our church who might be overlooked or considered insignificant?

2 **Two times in Acts 10, Cornelius is called a God-fearer.** In the first century that meant that he had a reverence for the God of the Jews, probably attended synagogue, but did not offer sacrifices at the temple or embrace circumcision. What would a “God-fearer” look like in our culture? What can we learn about next steps for “God-fearers” from people like Cornelius?

 *Some people claim that “all religions lead to God” or that “all religions are basically the same.” What evidence is there in this episode that neither Cornelius nor Peter would agree with such viewpoints (note Acts 11:14)?*

3 **Peter declares in Acts 10:34-35 that “God shows no partiality.”** Why is that concept of God’s impartiality so important? Think of the impact it should have on the church today in light of current ethnic, cultural, or social differences that we encounter. (See also Genesis 12:3, Isaiah 56:6-7, Isaiah 49:6, Romans 1:16, Gal. 3:28, Ephesians 2:14-16)

 *How was the outpouring of the Spirit upon Cornelius and his household significant in Christ’s plan to build his church?*

 *How specifically do you need to grow in relating to people of other cultures and races and welcoming them with the gospel?*

- 4 **Think about what it must have been like for Peter to experience the vision God gave him recorded in Acts 10:9-16.** If you were him, what kind of emotions would you be experiencing?

♥ *Peter was called to obey the Lord even though he was perplexed. When have you encountered a word from the Lord that you were confused or unsure about?*

♥ *How does Peter's obedience speak to your life and situation?*

- 5 **God could have communicated the gospel to Cornelius directly, or even used his angel.** Why do you think he had Peter and several others travel from Joppa to Caesarea to minister the gospel face-to-face?

🔗 *At the end of Acts 9, we find Peter traveling through Palestine, when previously the apostles had remained in Jerusalem. What can we learn about healthy missions work from Peter's travels here as well as Paul's in Acts 14:21-23?*

🔗 *Bring Peter's travels through Palestine and his visit to Cornelius in Caesarea together. What missional implications do these accounts have for your life this week?*