

INTRO

- We all know the power of word of mouth. What's something that's easy for you to share with others?

READ

Acts 10:29-36, 44-48

REFLECT & RESPOND

The conversion of Cornelius through Peter is the longest narrative in Acts and provides us an important example of personal evangelism.

Qu: when you hear evangelism, what's your immediate reaction? What intimidates you about personal evangelism?

As we discuss evangelism, let's trust God to bring breakthrough in this area for each of us personally (offer a prayer in line with this before continuing).

Evangelism starts in prayer

Cornelius was praying and Peter was praying; then God brought them together. Right now, people are crying out to God for help and we're crying out to God for opportunity. God wants to answer both! Prayer cultivates God's heart towards others in us and leads us to minister effectively to others (James 5:16).

Qu: are there specific people you are praying for to come to know Jesus? If not, why not?

You need to be ready

Peter was minding his own business on a rooftop. Likewise, you never know when God will answer prayer by using you, but we always need to be prepared (2 Tim 4:2).

Qu: How can we better prepare ourselves for opportunities to evangelize?

You have to preach the gospel

In Mk 16:15, Jesus commissioned us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. No place and nobody is off limits to hearing the gospel!

Qu: in sharing the gospel with someone, what are important aspects of the gospel to communicate?

Evangelism requires power

As we've already seen in Acts, The Spirit has been generously given to empower us to bear witness to Jesus in word & deed, signs & wonders. He is the "x factor" in evangelism.

Your testimony is powerful

Rev 12:11 underscores the importance of personal testimony. Sometimes that means sharing how you came to trust and follow Jesus. Other times, it's answering how Jesus is currently working in your life.

Qu: Could you give us the 1min version of your testimony of becoming a Christian?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for those on your list to come to know Jesus; pray for openness and opportunity.
- Pray for the Spirit's power and boldness to come upon you in a fresh way for evangelism.
- Pray for us as a church, that evangelism would become a core part of who we are and what we do.