

INTRO

- Are there any types of food that you are allergic to or will not eat? why?

READ

- Acts 11:1-18

REFLECT & RESPOND

Despite Jesus being very clear to his followers that he wanted the gospel to go into every culture and to all people groups, the early church was still almost exclusively Jewish. That's why this story of the conversion of Cornelius and his household is so significant and a turning point.

Qu: why do you think the church was so slow in taking the gospel to the gentiles? What barriers do you see preventing us from sharing the gospel today?

Conversion & Partnership: God's work & ours

God intervenes in Cornelius' life in dramatic supernatural fashion. And yet, God also uses Peter to bring Cornelius to a place of faith in Jesus.

Qu: what does this tell you about God's work and yours in helping others come to faith?

A lifetime of Conversion

Acts reminds us that conversions are stories about beginnings, the beginning of the Christian journey, not its final destination; a reminder that change is meant to be ongoing throughout our lives.

This is a story about 2 equally significant conversions needed to advance God's mission: Cornelius to Christ and Peter's need to be converted in his thinking, specifically out of his prejudice towards gentiles.

"Though conversion may be pinpointed to a moment, salvation is a process that continues over a lifetime. I am still being saved from old ways of thinking and behaving and am coming to new understandings, to new life."

— Donna Barber

Many Christians get stuck or bored in their walk with God because they stop seeing their need for ongoing conversion and salvation—we need to *continue to see our need* for more conversion and salvation if we are to grow and mature spiritually.

Qu: as you think about your own Christian journey so far, do you see yourself growing and maturing or stagnating? Why?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for renewal in one another's lives, a fresh awakening and response to God's grace in Jesus.
- Pray for our church, that we would see evangelism become a big part of our culture.
- Pray for one another to practice a life of up-in-out in the week ahead.