

***Unexpected Transitions***  
***Acts 9:36-11:18***

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**Getting Started**

- ❖ Would

**Key Ideas for Discussion**

1. The Unexpected Visions (10:1-16)
2. The Unexpected Request (10:17-23)
3. The Unexpected Results (10:24-48)
4. The Unexpected Criticism (11:1-3)
5. The Unexpected Revelation (11:4-18)

Takeaway Truth: The most significant transitions in our spiritual journey involve God unexpectedly changing our heart attitude towards those we dismiss or despise.

**Digging Deeper**

- ❖ Read Acts 9:36-43. How do these verses show God preparing Peter for what is soon to occur in chapter 10?
- ❖ What evidence was there in the life of Cornelius that the Holy Spirit was working in him?
- ❖ How would Peter have understood the command of God in verse 15? How did the vision prepare Peter for Cornelius? From your understanding of the OT was the Jewish attitude towards Gentiles Biblically valid or not? Why?
- ❖ Why is it significant that the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his house in the same way He did the Jews at Pentecost?
- ❖ Compare and Contrast the conversion stories of Saul and Cornelius. How are they the same and how are they different? What would you say is the most important common thread in both stories?
- ❖ What do you learn about the character of God from the story of Cornelius?

**Apply It!**

- ❖ What are some common equivalent attitudes we can manifest similar to Peter's previous to his vision?
- ❖ Who irritates the fool out of you? Who do you tend to feel superior to? Who makes you angry? Does your heart need to be changed and enlarged by the gospel towards that person?
- ❖ How do you see unity between people from different cultures and races lived out in our church? How can this be improved in your life, in your group, and/or in our church?

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**Think About It!**

*The fundamental emphasis of the Cornelius story is that, since God does not make distinctions in his new society, we have no liberty to make them either. Yet, tragic as it is, the church has never learned irrevocably the truth of its own unity or of the equality of its members in Christ. Even Peter himself, despite the fourfold divine witness he had received, later had a bad lapse in Antioch, withdrew from fellowship with believing Gentiles, and had to be publicly opposed by Paul.<sup>43</sup> Even then, the circumcision party continued their propaganda, and the Council of Jerusalem had to be called to settle the issue (Acts 15). Even after that, the same ugly sin of discrimination has kept reappearing in the church, in the form of racism (colour prejudice), nationalism ('my country, right or wrong'), tribalism in Africa and casteism in India, social and cultural snobbery,<sup>44</sup> or sexism (discriminating against women). All such discrimination is inexcusable even in non-Christian society; in the Christian community it is both an obscenity (because offensive to human dignity) and a blasphemy (because offensive to God who accepts without discrimination all who repent and believe). Like Peter, we have to learn that 'God does not show favouritism' (10:34). (John Stott)*

Note from Pastor Jerry: For this year's CG questions, group resources and Bible studies from John Stott (Acts Seeing the Spirit at Work), John MacArthur (MacArthur Bible Studies: Acts), Jack Hayford (Kingdom Power) and Max Lucado (Life Lessons from the Book of Acts) are used in addition to original material.

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<sup>43</sup> Gal. 2:11ff.

<sup>44</sup> Jas. 2:1ff.

## WORSHIP RESOURCE

February 27, 2022 | Transfiguration of the Lord

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### WORSHIP SONGS

#### THIS IS AMAZING GRACE

*Words by Phil Wickham and Jeremy Riddle, 2013*

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness, whose love is mighty and so much stronger? The King of glory, the King above all kings. Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder, who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder? The King of glory, the King above all kings.

*This is amazing grace; this is unfailing love that you would take my place, that you would bear my cross. You laid down your life that I would be set free. Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.*

Who brings the chaos back into order, who makes the orphan a son and daughter? The King of glory, the King of glory. Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance? The King of glory, the King above all kings.

#### PSALM 99 (THE LORD IS KING, ENTHRONED IN MIGHT)

*Words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) / ELLACOMBE*

The Lord is King enthroned in might on wings of cherubim;  
He reigns in holiness and light, bow down to worship Him!  
Beyond all majesty and praise His holy name confess;  
The King of everlasting days, who rules in righteousness.

Of old to priests and prophets known with trembling, fear, and awe,  
He gave His people, set in stone, His statutes and His law!  
By those who called upon His name the voice of God was heard,  
His presence shown in cloud and flame when they obeyed His word.

O magnify the God of grace who hears His people's cry,  
And come with songs before His face, exalt His name on high!  
To see at last, by grace restored from sin and all its stains,  
The holy mountain of the Lord where God in glory reigns.

#### I SPEAK JESUS

*Words and Music by Abby Benton, Carlen Prince, Dustin Smith, Jesse Reeves, Kristen Dutton, and Raina Pratt, 2019*

I just want to speak the Name of Jesus  
over ev'ry heart and ev'ry mind.  
'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence, I speak Jesus.

I just want to speak the Name of Jesus  
'till ev'ry dark addiction starts to break.  
Declaring there is hope and there is freedom, I speak Jesus.

*Your Name is power,  
Your Name is healing, Your Name is life.  
Break ev'ry stronghold,  
shine through the shadows, burn like a fire.*

I just want to speak the Name of Jesus  
over fear and all anxiety.  
To ev'ry soul held captive by depression, I speak Jesus.

Shout Jesus from the mountains, and Jesus in the streets,  
Jesus in the darkness over ev'ry enemy.  
Jesus for my fam'ly, I speak the holy Name Jesus.

#### NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD

*Words and Music by Robert Lowry, 1876*

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh! Precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.  
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

For my pardon, this I see; nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
For my cleansing, this my plea; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone; nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Naught of good that I have done; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace; nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
This is all my righteousness; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

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### DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 150; Malachi 4:1-6; 2 Cor. 3:7-18; Luke 9:18-27  
MONDAY | Ps. 5; Proverbs 27:1-12; Phil. 2:1-13; John 18:15-27  
TUESDAY | Ps. 42; Proverbs 30:1-33; Phil. 3:1-11; John 18:28-38  
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 51; Amos 5:6-15; Hebrews 12:1-14; Luke 18:9-14  
THURSDAY | Ps. 27; Habakkuk 3:1-18; Phil. 3:12-21; John 17:1-8  
FRIDAY | Ps. 22; Ezekiel 18:1-32; Philippians 4:1-9; John 17:9-19  
SATURDAY | Ps. 31; Ezekiel 39:21-29; Phil. 4:10-20; John 17:20-26

### PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Lord God, you revealed your glory to Moses at Mount Sinai; and to Peter, James, and John on the Mount of Transfiguration. As your people, we want to know you and behold your glory. We know that you are Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. As we gaze upon you through word, song, and prayer, transform us into your image from one degree of glory to another; through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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