

THE BOOK OF ACTS

A CROSSPOINT CITY
SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Wk 22: What God Has Made Clean

SERIES OVERVIEW

The book of Acts tells the story of the gospel advancing from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. As we walk through this missional narrative together, our prayer is that God would breathe fresh wind into our sails—motivating and inspiring us to join Him in the work He's still doing today. [Book of Acts Video Overview](#)

CONTEXT: Acts 10:1-23

Peter receives a vision from God, instructing him that what God has made clean should not be called impure, emphasizing the inclusion of Gentiles into the early church. Simultaneously, Cornelius, a Roman centurion, is directed by an angel to send for Peter, leading to a significant moment of divine guidance and expanding the reach of the Gospel.

THE BIG IDEA

God breaks down the barriers we build so the gospel can reach the people we once kept out.

ICE BREAKER

Share your favorite and most meaningful part of our Closer gatherings.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 10:1-23

1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, 2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, & prayed continually to God. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in & say to him, "Cornelius." 4 He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. 5 And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. 6 He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." 7 When the angel who

Scripture continued: spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, 8 and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. 9 The next day, as they were on their journey & approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 He became hungry & wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance 11 and saw the heavens opened & something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. 13 And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." 14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." 15 And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." 16 This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven. 17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate 18 & called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. 19 And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. 20 Rise & go down & accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them." 21 Peter went down to the men & said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?" 22 And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright & God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house & to hear what you have to say." 23 So he invited them in to be his guests. The next day he rose & went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

GROUP DISCUSSION

(Refer to **Week 22** of your ACTS Journal.)

Share a truth or experience from Closer that drew you closer to God. (James 4:8)

Read Acts 10:1-23 as a group.

What does this passage teach us about God?

How did God pursue Cornelius in this story? Think back to the time before you surrendered your life to Jesus, how did God pursue you when you were lost in your sin?

What prejudices was Peter dealing with that made it hard for him to even be around Cornelius much less share the Gospel with him? What prejudices are preventing you from pursuing people far from God? (racial, religious, political, cultural)

Has anyone said to you, "God told me to tell you..."? How does 1 Thessalonians 5:20-22 help us test prophetic words? What are other ways to test prophetic words and even the validity of your own visions for your life?

Share a time when the evil one (or through another person) gave you a false vision or false words? How did he deceive you and distract you from what God had for you?

In Peter's vision in verses 10-16, how was God preparing Peter to share the Gospel with Cornelius.

If you really believe that God is always preparing people like Cornelius to receive the Gospel, how does that change your attitude and approach when you share life and the Gospel with someone?

Discussion continued: Pastor James shared this truth, "Anytime God wants to save a person, he sends a person." Who did God send to you to share the truth of the Gospel to you? Take a moment in the next 24 hours to call or text them to thank them for being obedient to the Great Commission.

We are given the gift of hospitality to invite people we know and don't know into our lives. Who in your group has the gift of hospitality? What does it look like to express the gift of hospitality for a Gospel purpose?

Share a story when inviting someone into your life was the catalyst to a person committing their life to Christ and finding Gospel community.

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Thank God for your salvation and the person He sent to tell you about Jesus. Confess and repent any prejudices and ask God to help you see them how He sees them. God, may our hearts reflect your heart as we love all people!
