

Discussion Questions - 5/8/22

The Spirit at Work (Acts 10)

Here are three basic questions you can always ask in any bible study:

- What does this text teach us about God?
- What does this text teach us about ourselves?
- If this text is true, what should we do to obey this teaching? This answer ought to be specific, in that it can be clearly measured.

Here are some specific questions about this text:

- The vision that Peter receives forces him to reimagine the wideness of God's grace and also Jesus' commission at the beginning of the book of Acts (i.e. to be Jesus' witnesses to the ends of the earth).
 - When has God challenged your views about his grace towards others?
 - What are stories of God's grace in Jesus reaching others that both encourage and challenge you?
- Look at Peter's message to Cornelius and his household (10:34-43).
 - What is central to the gospel message?
 - What elements in that sermon speak to the issue of racial divisions?
 - How might these elements speak to our culture today?
 - How do they speak to you?
- Is Acts 10 about Cornelius' conversion or Peter's? Explain.
 - How does the gospel both convert unbelievers and continue to convert believers?
 - How does Peter and Cornelius' encounter shape your understanding of the Holy Spirit?
- For deeper growth (optional): Acts 10 addresses cultural and racial divides in a substantial way. It is clear that the Spirit breaks down racial barriers to make one body in Christ, Jews and Gentiles together. As a group, take time to listen to each other about the following questions. Leave the questions open to the group to whoever wants to answer. This is a wonderful opportunity to practice the grace of listening well to each other.
 - When was your first memory that race was an issue?
 - What are negative experiences you have had in regards to race?
 - What are positive experiences?
 - Take a few minutes to pray as a group in response to what was shared.
 - Close the meeting praying the Lord's Prayer together.