

# Building the Church

## Acts 9:32-43, Acts 10

### Lesson 8

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 9:32 through Acts 10

1. After reading through this week's verse, would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.
  - **Acts 9:32-43 Key Words:** Peter, Jesus, and believed
  - **Acts 10 Key Words:** God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, angel, Peter, witness, baptized, and believe
3. The contrasting word *but* was used two times in Acts 9:32-43 and six times in Acts 10. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.

*But -*

4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used four times in Acts 10. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

*Therefore -*

AENEAS HEALED AND DORCAS RESTORED TO LIFE: Read Acts 9:32-43

1. Acts 9:32-35 records the healing of a paralytic named Aeneas. What did Peter say to him?
  - a. What did all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon do?

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2. Acts 9:36-43 records the restoration to life of Dorcas. What happened in Joppa as a result?
  - a. Consider the words used to describe Dorcas' life. What would you like people to say about you, not only after your death, but while you live?
  - b. What changes, if any do you think you need to make for this to actually happen?

CORNELIUS SENDS A DELEGATION: Read Acts 10:1-8

1. Who is Cornelius? Verses 1,2
  - a. Was he a Jew or a Gentile?
2. From your understanding, was Cornelius saved or seeking?
  - a. What does Proverbs 8:17b teach us about seekers?
3. What happened to Cornelius about the ninth hour?
4. What two things came up for a memorial before God?

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- a. What do these verses from Hebrews teach us about how God views our good actions towards others?

- Hebrews 6:10
- Hebrews 13:16

What do you learn from this?

5. What did the angel tell Cornelius to do?

PETER'S VISION: Read Acts 10:9-16

1. What did Peter do the day after Cornelius sent his men to go to Peter?
2. Peter fell into a trance. What did he see? Verses 11,12
3. Using Acts 10:13-15, record the conversation between Peter and God.
  - God (verse 13)
  - Peter (verse 14)
  - God (verse 15)
4. This is not the first time Peter objected to God's plan. What happened in:
  - Matthew 16:21,22
  - John 13:8

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- a. Compare Cornelius' response in the beginning of Acts 10 to Peter's response in Acts 10:14.
  
  - b. What are your thoughts?
5. The Gentiles were considered by the Jews to be unclean. What was God's intended message of this vision?
- a. How can prejudices affect our desire to share the gospel with others?
6. How do you think Peter felt seeing a vision from God, which contradicted Peter's understanding of God?

PETER SUMMONED TO CAESAREA: Read Acts 10:17-23

1. What does Acts 10:17 say that Peter was doing when he showed up?
  - a. Peter did not immediately understand the significance of his vision. While Peter thought about the vision, what did the Spirit say to him? Verses 19,20
    - 1.) What reassuring words did the Spirit use?

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How would these words have been reassuring to you?

2. The men identified Cornelius as a centurion. That would have told Peter he was a Gentile, even worse, a Roman soldier. Yet, what did Peter do in Acts 10:23a?
  - a. Jewish tradition forbade Jews to entertain Gentiles. How do traditions and the Word of God sometimes get intermingled?

What is an example of a tradition (or saying) you thought was a command of God?

3. According to the last sentence of Acts 10:23, what did Peter do the next day?
  - a. Notice, Peter did not object to their request. Why?
  - b. What do you think Peter had learned about obeying the Lord?

PETER MEETS CORNELIUS: Read Acts 10:24-33

1. Notice the phrase in verse 24, *and Cornelius was waiting for them*. What did he do?
  - a. Put yourself in Cornelius' place. What might have been some of your thoughts?

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2. How did Cornelius respond to seeing Peter?
  - a. Read Revelation 19:10. The apostle John bowed to worship an angel. Who did the angel say that we are to alone worship?
  - b. Why is it so easy to get our eyes off of God and worship a person?
  - c. People do not tend to bow down to worship people today. What are some typical ways that people worship others?
3. Peter told Cornelius (Acts 10:28) that it was unlawful for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. Unlawful is not the same as unbiblical. Why do you think people tend to confuse the two?
  - a. What word did Peter add in the last part of verse 28 that reveals his understanding of the vision?
4. Reflect upon the heart of Cornelius as you read Acts 10:33. What are your thoughts?

PREACHING TO CORNELIUS' HOUSEHOLD: Read Acts 10:34-43

1. Before Peter began to preach, what did he acknowledge in verses 34 and 35.

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- a. How do you think Cornelius' statement in Acts 10:33 helped Peter to perceive that God shows no partiality?
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2. Using verses 36-43, list the facts Peter stated about Jesus.  
THE HOLY SPIRIT FALLS ON THE GENTILES: Read Acts 10:44-48
1. What happened while Peter was still speaking? Verses 44,46
    - a. What did Peter conclude, seeing that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles?
  2. Read the concluding verse of Acts 10. How do you think the relationship of the Jews and the Gentiles in that house changed in a period of just a few moments?

REVIEW: Read Acts 9:32-43 and Acts 10

1. Consider the people who came to believe in Jesus because of the work of Peter. Notice that many of the salvations were due to the sharing of what happened. How does this speak to you about your responsibility to share the gospel?
2. Cornelius was a God-fearing man and yet was not saved. What does a person like this need to know?
3. Peter's convictions were challenged by his vision. What did you learn from Peter's obedience?

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4. In what ways have you been challenged by this lesson?