



# Acts

Amplifying Hope | October 15, 2023

**Sermon:** Peter - Invitational Faith Sharing

**Scripture:** Acts 10

**Summary:** The gospels record that people invited other people to meet Jesus and to be healed by Him. The Acts of the Apostles continues this evangelism strategy of inviting people. In Acts 10 the story of Cornelius and Peter emerges to give us an inside look at invitational evangelism in the first century. First Cornelius has a vision directing him to invite Peter to come to his home and share what he has learned. Then Peter receives an invitation from the Lord in a vision to eat unclean food. Then a knock at the door leads to a prompting from the spirit to accept an invitation to meet with Cornelius. Peter invites the messengers into the home where he is staying and spends time with them before heading on the journey to Cornelius' home. This story is filled with invitations. Our lives should be lived inviting others to Jesus just as we were once invited!!!

Cornelius' Vision | Acts 10:1-8

Peter's Vision | Acts 10:9-16

## 1. Invite without Hesitation or Objection (Acts 10:20, 29).

- Simon the Tanner invited Peter to stay in his home.
- Cornelius did not hesitate to invite Peter to his home.
- Peter, after his vision, did not hesitate to invite Cornelius' men into Simon the tanner's home.
- Peter did not hesitate to respond to the invitation to journey to Cornelius' home.
- Peter went, when invited, without objection.

## 2. Invite without Pretense (Acts 10:28-29).

- An Italian Army Official inviting a Jewish former fisherman Apostle of Jesus Christ to his home!

### **3. Invite without Partiality (Acts 10:34).**

- Go to the Highways and Hedges and invite them to come in (Luke 14:16-24).

### **4. Invite with Specifics (Acts 10:5-8, 23).**

- Pick you up.
- Meeting time and place.

### **5. Invite with Purpose (Acts 10:33).**

- Meet a man who changed my life. Learn about living forever. Meet the most generous and caring people I know. I've got some people I want you to meet.

### **6. Invite with Results (Acts 10:44-48).**

**John 4:1-39** - Woman at the Well

Both Cornelius' invitation and Peter's invitation were initiated by direction from the Lord. A vision gave them specific instructions that both followed.

Matthew Party - **Matthew 9:9-13**

#### **Matthew 15:30**

And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them,

#### **Acts 5:16**

The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

The Lord sends people to worship with us every Sunday.

*Invite them in. Invite them to your small group. Invite them to come back. Invite them to trust Jesus. Invite them to sit with you. Invite them to lunch. Make them feel welcome and wanted and valued.*

We need to love everyone who comes to worship here.

We need to welcome everyone who comes to worship here.

- **Six Styles of Evangelism** (Testing and Descriptions) | <https://www.perimeter.org/files/4394/?r=868064192>

## Life Application Questions

1. What happens when someone gives you an invitation?
2. What happens if someone rejects your invitation?
3. What do you do after an invitation is extended and accepted?
4. Who invited you to Church? To trust Jesus?
5. What makes you hesitant to invite people to church? To trust Jesus?
6. What motivates you to invite people to church? To trust Jesus?
7. **PRAY:** Ask the Lord to help you develop your passion for and effectiveness in sharing your faith with others.