

Acts 10:1-48

September 21, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Odd One Out

Read each set of words below aloud to the group. Ask the students to identify which word doesn't belong and why it's different from the other three. Encourage students to explain their thinking.

Warm up example:

Words: Apple, Banana, Grapes, **Carrot**

Answer: Carrot

Why: Carrot is a vegetable, not a fruit

The odd one out is bolded below.

•Peach, Pear, **Pumpkin**, Plum

Pumpkin is a vegetable, not a fruit

•Monopoly, **Tetris**, Uno, Clue

Tetris is a video game, not a board game

•Ireland, Denmark, Croatia, **China**

China is in Asia, not Europe

•Dolphin, Shark, **Octopus**, Whale

An octopus is an invertebrate, not a mammal

•**Pluto**, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter

Pluto is a dwarf planet, not a planet

•Violin, Drums, Flute, **Microphone**

A microphone is not an instrument

•Tulip, **Magnolia**, Daisy, Sunflower

Magnolia is the only bloom in this set that grows on a tree

•**Sahara**, Everest, Kilimanjaro, Rockies

Sahara is a desert, not a mountain

•Train, Airplane, **Subway**, Helicopter

Subway transportation is underground, not above ground

•**Biscuit**, Cookies, Donuts, Muffins

Biscuits are not (usually) sweet

•Ice, **Fire**, Steam, Rain

Fire is not a form of water

•Screwdriver, Hammer, Wrench, **Binoculars**

Binoculars are not a tool for building

•X, TikTok, **Spotify**, Instagram

Spotify is a music streaming platform, not social media

•Lizard, Snake, **Salamander**, Alligator

A salamander is an amphibian, not a reptile

Teaching Moment:

In our game today, we picked the word that was the odd one out in the set of four. In the days of the early church, in a group of Jews, a Gentile (anyone who wasn't a Jew) would be the odd one out. Before Jesus came, Jews didn't associate with Gentiles, but God wanted all nations to be a part of His family, and that included Gentiles. The gospel was for everyone. In our study of Acts today, we'll read a story about God demonstrating this to the believers.

DISCUSSION

 ASK SEVERAL VOLUNTEERS TO READ ACTS 10:1-48.

How does the passage describe Cornelius? What was His connection to God and to the Jewish people?

How did Cornelius display obedience before God upon hearing His message?

What stands out from Peter's vision and his reaction to it?

How was this vision and the direction Peter received from the Holy Spirit particularly meaningful?

What are some ways we might let our tradition or comfort get in the way of what God is calling us to do today?

How did Peter display faith in God's message as he spoke to Cornelius and those with him?

What was the result of this divine meeting and why was it so important for the early church?

Where do you need to embrace God's will over your own tradition and preference now?

GOING DEEPER

What are some misconceptions or prejudices about certain people or groups that exist in the church today?

Who are some groups of people you might prefer to avoid?

APPLICATION

What can we learn about the gospel and sharing it in today's passage?

What does this story teach us about preconceived notions and how God might use us despite those?

In this passage, Luke recorded that Cornelius did many acts of charity, and they "ascended as a memorial offering before God" (v. 4). What are some

ways we could serve God's people in our community? How might this give opportunity for gospel conversations?

PRAYER

Thank God for building His church from people of every background and context. Ask for His help as you consider how you can share the gospel in the community where God has placed you. Ask Him to show you any preconceived notions you may have about people in your life and how to move forward with sharing your faith with those people.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

September 28, 2025 --- Acts 11:1-30

COMMENTARY

Acts 10:1-48

1. The Vision of Cornelius (10:1–8). Cornelius is identified as a Roman soldier, residing at Caesarea, and a particularly pious “God-fearer.” God-fearers were gentiles who devoutly believed in God and attended the synagogue but who had not become full converts (“proselytes”) to Judaism. Cornelius had a vision of an angel who directed him to send to Joppa for Peter.

2. The Vision of Peter (10:9–16). Peter’s vision was more graphic—of a sheet descending to earth filled with all sorts of animals, both clean and unclean. Three times he was instructed to “kill and eat” of these animals. To do so was to break the Jewish food laws. It went against everything Peter had been taught from his childhood. How could a heavenly voice direct him to break the food laws?

3. Peter’s Visit to Cornelius (10:17–23). Peter’s vision coincided with the arrival of the messengers from Cornelius. Directions from the Spirit to accompany them served to convince Peter that God had something special in store at Cornelius’s house. Next day Peter went with the messengers on the thirty-mile journey to Caesarea.

4. Shared Visions (10:24–33). When Peter arrived at Cornelius’s house, both he and the centurion shared their visions with one another in some detail. The

narrative is quite repetitious, but this serves to underline the importance of the events.

5. Peter's Witness (10:34–43). Convinced by his vision that God considered no one “impure or unclean” Peter now proceeded to share the gospel with Cornelius and his fellow gentiles. It is Peter's third and final major sermon in Acts. The sermon basically was a summary of Jesus' ministry, emphasizing the significance of His death and resurrection. What was really striking about it was Peter's opening statement which recognized that God accepts people of all races and nations.

6. The Impartiality of the Spirit (10:44–48). Peter didn't finish his sermon. The Spirit descended on the gathering of gentiles, who outwardly demonstrated the Spirit's presence by their ecstatic speech. Recognizing their possession of the Spirit, Peter arranged for their baptism. Now he fully understood his vision. He had no trouble accepting the hospitality of his gentile brothers and sisters in Christ, although it surely involved some relaxation of the kosher food laws.