

The Week in the Word
Acts Worksheet #19: Peter Learns a Lesson

Passage: Acts 10:1-23

Sermon Dates: June 28-29

Study Period: June 23-27

Link Group Meetings: June 30 – July 4

In Matthew 16:19 Jesus told Peter, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:19 NIV)

This passage shows how God prepares Peter to use the “keys” he gave him to open the kingdom for the “unclean” Gentiles.

Begin your study by reading Acts chapter 10, and up to 11:18 in one sitting, in order to understand what is going on in this situation.

1. What can we learn about Cornelius from verses 1-8? Refer to his work, his relationship to God, to his servants, and to others.

2. Read 10:3-6 again. This vision came to Cornelius at the ninth hour (3 pm), which was the hour of prayer. So, he was praying, and this vision came as an answer to his prayer. What do you think Cornelius was praying for? (10:3-4; compare 10:22 and 11:14)

3. How would the angel’s message be an encouragement to him? (10:4-6)

4. Read 10:7-8. Why doesn’t Cornelius go to Joppa himself? (10:5)

5. Read 10:9-10. Where is Peter and what is he doing when he falls into a trance? (9-10)

6. Read 10:11-16. Why is the command to kill and eat repeated three times? What is Peter’s conflict, and do you think it is legitimate? (10:11-16)

7. The Voice also commands Peter three times: “*Don’t call anything impure that God has made clean*” (10:15). What do you suppose the Lord meant by this, and why did Peter need to understand it? (See 10:28,34,35).

8. Read 17-23. Did Peter ever eat the food that was offered?

9. (17-23) A strict Jew would never have as his guest, or be a guest of, any man who didn’t observe the Jewish law. How is Peter prepared for the men sent by Cornelius?

10. In 10:22 Cornelius is described as “righteous” and “God-fearing.” Why is it that many “God-fearing” people do not have a personal relationship with Christ?

11. If you were face to face with a person like Cornelius, who was “righteous”, “God-fearing” but still genuinely seeking the truth, what would you tell him or her? (Write a paragraph or two explaining the message you would share.)