



# DIGGING DEEPER

## Break Down Barriers

June 7th, 2026

### LEAN IN

Think about a time when you felt like an outsider—maybe at school, on a team, in a social setting, or even at church.

- What made you feel excluded or welcomed?
- Who helped make you feel seen and accepted?
  
- Why do you think people naturally build walls between one another?

### LOOK UP

**Main Passage: Break up the passage and read aloud in your group- Acts 10**

**Make some observations (What does the text say?):**

- What stands out to you in Peter's vision?
- What repeated phrases or ideas do you notice?
- What do you notice about Cornelius?
- How does Peter initially respond to God's command?
- What changes in Peter throughout the story?
- What barriers existed between Jews and Gentiles?
- What surprises you most about the way God works in this chapter?
- Where do you see the Holy Spirit leading people outside their comfort zones?

**What are you curious about?**

- Why do you think Peter resisted God at first?
- Why was eating together such a big deal in this culture?
- Why do you think God gave Peter a vision instead of simply telling him what to do?

## **Interpretation (What does the passage mean?)**

### **What do you learn about God?**

- God pursues people from every background.
- God is already working in places and people we may overlook.
- The Holy Spirit breaks down walls that divide people.
- God's grace is bigger than human categories.
- What does this teach us about the heart of God?
- Why is this such a radical statement coming from Peter?

### **What do you learn about humanity?**

- Humans naturally create categories and divisions.
- We often assume people who are different from us do not belong.
- Even sincere believers can carry prejudice, bias, or blind spots.
- We tend to gravitate toward comfort and familiarity instead of mission.
- How does Jesus bring people together?
- Why is unity in the church so important to the gospel?

### **Why do you think the gospel threatens division and superiority so deeply?**

## **Application (What's my response?)**

### **How are you encouraged, challenged, or convicted by this passage?**

- Are there people or groups you tend to avoid, judge, or misunderstand?
- Where might God be stretching your heart beyond your comfort zone?
- Have you ever limited who you thought God could reach?
- What assumptions or biases might the Holy Spirit want to confront in you?
- What would it look like to stop resisting the ways God wants to grow you?
- Is there a relationship where God may be asking you to build a bridge instead of a wall?

### **What should be our response to this passage?**

- To repent of prejudice, pride, and exclusion.
- To welcome others the way Jesus welcomed us.
- To become people who build bridges instead of barriers.
- To join God in reaching people who are different from us.

### **Reflective Questions**

- Who in your life may feel overlooked, excluded, or spiritually "far away"?
- How can our group become more welcoming and intentional toward others?
- What practical step can you take this week to reflect the inclusive love of Jesus?
- How does this picture of heaven challenge the way we live now?
- How should the future kingdom shape the culture of our church today?

## Scripture

- Acts 10:9-35
- Acts 10:34-35
- Acts 11:17
- Ephesians 2:13-14
- Revelation 7:9

## Prayer Guide

- Ask God to reveal any prejudice, pride, fear, or assumptions in your heart.
- Pray for humility and openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that your group and church would reflect the welcoming heart of Jesus.
- Pray for people in your life who feel far from God or disconnected from church.
- Ask God to help you become a bridge-builder in your school, workplace, family, and community. Pray for unity in the church across cultures, generations, and backgrounds.

## Practice (STEP OUT)

### 1. Share a Meal With Someone Different From You

This week, intentionally spend time with someone outside your normal circle—someone from a different background, generation, culture, or life experience. Listen to their story and practice hospitality.

### 2. Invite Someone Into Community

Invite someone to church, youth, small group, or an upcoming church event who may normally feel overlooked or hesitant to attend.

### 3. Pray for Open Eyes

Each morning this week, pray: ***“Holy Spirit, help me notice the people you want me to love today.”*** Ask God to help you see people the way He sees them.