

w/b 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018 Notes for group study/ LIFE APPLICATION:

THEME: PETER AND CORNELIUS – MOVING OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE & OVERCOMING PREJUDICE

PASSAGE: ACTS CH10

LAUNCH

Play a game of Room 101 in the group. Get each member of the group to discuss something that really annoys them (eg dogwalkers who don't pick up their dogs' business or people who talk loudly on mobile phones on the train). Vote on which one is the best.

Have you been subject to prejudice or exclusion? For what reason and how did it make you feel?

Describe a time when you were surprised by something someone said & the way it displayed a particular prejudice. Are there times when you have been surprised by your own prejudice or blind spots (as Malcolm described it).

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

What evidence was there in the character of Cornelius that the Holy Spirit was already at work? (vs1-9)

Which of Cornelius's qualities would you like to develop? How might you go about doing this?

Why is a care of the poor such a priority for God? How might you develop in this area personally?

Has God spoken to you recently through a dream or a vision? If comfortable, share this with the group. Did anything change as a result?

What was the key point that God was trying to drive home to Peter? Why was it so difficult for Peter to grasp hold of this & change as a result?

What elements of your past, upbringing or experiences have led you to develop certain prejudices? How might they be overcome?

A sensitive area for the church in terms of prejudice at the moment is the whole LGBT rights movement. If someone were to ask for your views as a Christian on the subject (which is highly likely) how might you respond?

Are there any particular groups or types of people that you might find it difficult to share your faith with? (eg 'good' people who seem to have it all together). Spend some time praying that doors will be opened so that you will be able to share your faith with such people

In verse 39-42 we get a summary of the key elements of the gospel message. What are the key points and why are they important?

APPLICATION

The Monday night prayer team prayed for me to have a significant chat with someone about faith in Christ on the plane to or from Australia. Without me looking for it (I was seriously tired on both journeys), and in an entirely unforced way (what are you reading? A sort of reverse of the Phillip-

Ethiopian encounter), the Holy Spirit directed the conversation that led to the amazing question 'how do I become a Christian?'

Pray for specific 'divine encounters'. Pray for the Spirit's lead and Godly wisdom to say the right thing when they occur. Pray for dreams, visions and the supernatural so we can be led to such encounters.

Pray for any and all prejudice to be removed so that whoever turns up in the seat next to us (so to speak) can be engaged in a supernaturally natural conversation about Christ.