



## Conversations That Matter: Cornelius

### Acts 10:1-48 - Collaboration

#### Act 1 - Peter and Cornelius (10:1-33)

- A. Cornelius' Vision from an angel of God (1-8)
- B. Peter's Vision from God (9-16)
- C. The Collaboration of Peter and Cornelius (17-33)

#### Act 2 - Peter's Message from God (10:34-43)

#### Act 3 - The Response - The Spirit's Presence (10:44-48)

### Discussion Questions

1. Read Acts 10:30-33. From these verses, we see one of the first times that a group of mostly Gentiles gather to hear a message from the Lord (through Peter). The meeting occurs because of collaboration between Cornelius and Peter who obeyed their individual commands from God. What was the outcome of their obedience and what can we learn from their submission to God's call on their lives?
2. What do the following six verses tell us about the impact of collaboration in the body of Christ? (Ephesians 4:16, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Philippians 2:3-4, Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 15:1, and Proverbs 11:14) Can you think of any other way the power of collaboration impacts the body of Christ?
3. Read Acts 10:34-48. This was quite a moment for Peter as he shares that salvation was for all people, and then the Spirit begins to do his work fulfilling God's promise to extend salvation through Christ alone to all people. The message of the gospel was irresistible to his audience. What makes a church irresistible to all people? Discuss.
4. Praying Together: Pray together asking God to fill our hearts with the desire to listen to his voice and walk in His ways as we minister to each other and collaborate together to reach the world for Christ.
5. Assignment: Send a letter or a text or make a phone call to thank someone for being used by God to impact you with their commitment to listen to God's voice and walk side-by-side with you in your journey.

**Acts 10:1-33:** At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort,<sup>2</sup> a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.<sup>3</sup> About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius."<sup>4</sup> And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God."<sup>5</sup> And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.<sup>6</sup> He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea."<sup>7</sup> When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him,<sup>8</sup> and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

<sup>9</sup> The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.<sup>10</sup> And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance<sup>11</sup> and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.<sup>12</sup> In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.<sup>13</sup> And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."<sup>14</sup> But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."<sup>15</sup> And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."<sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

<sup>17</sup> Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate<sup>18</sup> and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there.<sup>19</sup> And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you.<sup>20</sup> Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them."<sup>21</sup> And Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?"<sup>22</sup> And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say."<sup>23a</sup> So he invited them in to be his guests.

<sup>23b</sup> The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.<sup>24</sup> And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.<sup>25</sup> When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.<sup>26</sup> But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man."<sup>27</sup> And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered.<sup>28</sup> And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean."<sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me."

<sup>30</sup> And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing<sup>31</sup> and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.<sup>32</sup> Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.'<sup>33</sup> So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."



# Conversations That Matter: Cornelius

## Acts 10-11:18

### “Collaboration”

■ **Acts 10:34-48:** So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,<sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.<sup>36</sup> As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),<sup>37</sup> you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:<sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.<sup>39</sup> And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,<sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,<sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.<sup>42</sup> And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.<sup>43</sup> To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

■ <sup>44</sup> While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.<sup>45</sup> And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.<sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,<sup>47</sup> “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”<sup>48</sup> And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Power of Collaboration	Key Verses
Growing love in community	. . . speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. <b>Ephesians 4:15-16</b>
Unity in the Spirit	For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. <b>I Corinthians 12:12-13</b>
Other-Centeredness	Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <b>Philippians 2:3-4</b>
Motivation, Accountability, and Encouragement	. . . let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. <b>Hebrews 10:24-25</b>
Bearing one another’s burdens (empathy and sympathy)	We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <b>Romans 15:1 (Also Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)</b>
Safety	Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety. <b>Proverbs 11:14</b>



# L.I.F.E. Group Leader's Guide

**Main Idea:** Collaboration is a crucial tool God uses to grow His people and continue the mission of reaching those who do not know Jesus yet. God uses the collaboration of believers from different generations, churches, and cultures, with different gifts and resources to achieve something together they could not do on their own.

**Looking Back:** Last week we focused on the transformation of Paul on the road to Damascus. We saw how Ananias stepped into an uncomfortable moment and watched God transform Paul's life. Immediately Paul launched his ministry and was met with opposition from the start. Did anyone this week encounter opposition when they shared/talked about their faith this week? How can we encourage each other in these seasons of oppression?

**Icebreaker #1:** Have you ever collaborated on a project with somebody and really remember it being a great experience? Why was it so great? Discuss.

**Study Question #1:** Read Acts 10:30-33. From these verses, we see one of the first times that a group of mostly Gentiles gather to hear a message from the Lord (through Peter). The meeting occurs because of collaboration between Cornelius and Peter who obeyed their individual commands from God. What was the outcome of their obedience and what can we learn from their submission to God's call on their lives?

**Study Question #2:** What do the following six verses tell us about the impact of collaboration in the body of Christ? (Ephesians 4:16, I Corinthians 12:12-13, Philippians 2:3-4, Hebrews 10:24-25, Romans 15:1, and Proverbs 11:14) Can you think of any other way the power of collaboration impacts the body of Christ?

**Study Question #3:** Read Acts 10:34-48. This was quite a moment for Peter as he shares that salvation was for all people, and then the Spirit begins to do his work fulfilling God's promise to extend salvation through Christ alone to all people. The message of the gospel was irresistible to his audience. What makes a church irresistible to all people? Discuss.

(Here's some help: [authenticity, evidence of the Spirit working within the community, love for each other, etc.](#))

**Praying Together:** Pray together asking God to fill our hearts with the desire to listen to his voice and walk in His ways as we minister to each other and collaborate together to reach the world for Christ.

**Assignment:** Send a letter or a text, or make a phone call to thank someone for being used by God to

## DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS (CRU)

- 1) What does this passage tell you about God and His Character?
- 2) What does this passage tell you about People?
- 3) What does this passage tell you about His relationship with people?
- 4) How might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to live differently?

