

Aug 27, 2017



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
We care for others because God cares for us

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
Some people can be difficult to love  
And so we do not even try to care,  
But God says, "Love them just as I've loved you.  
You'll bring Me glory as My love you share."

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God*

(Rom 15:7 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 22, 1997)

**Series: Covenants with God**  
**UNIT: Signs of God's Covenant**

**NEXT WEEK**

**The Rainbow**

(Gen 8:20-22; 9:8-17)

## Called To Be Inclusive Acts 10:19-33

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches that God used people to confirm His supernatural call in His **Calling to Be Inclusive**. The study's aim is to understand that we can always respond to God's call with confidence. The study's application is to be reminded of our duty to witness as we see individuals daily.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

We find in the meeting between the Apostle Peter and the Roman centurion Cornelius the guiding hand of God from beginning to end. Cornelius was a God-fearer, a Gentile who believed in the God of Israel but did not practice all the Jewish customs (Acts 10:2). God saw fit to speak to Cornelius, telling him to seek out Peter. At the same time, the Lord gave Peter a vision and told him of messengers who had been sent to him by Cornelius (Acts 10:7-20). When Peter arrived at the home of Cornelius in Caesarea, the centurion fell at Peter's feet. He saw Peter's presence as the answer to his prayer, and he was no doubt in awe that the Lord's disciple had come to him, a Gentile. Peter's response was to tell Cornelius to stand up because he himself was a mere man (Acts 10:26). Peter then came before the whole household of Cornelius and explained that his presence there was no coincidence. He declared that they all knew of the Jewish prohibition against keeping company with non-Jews, and yet here he was, a Jew in this Gentile home. Both Peter and Cornelius, as well as the others present, grasped the significance of this meeting. It went against Jewish teaching that made clear distinctions between clean and unclean; and Gentiles, especially because they did not observe Jewish dietary regulations, were clearly considered unclean. Peter explained, "God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean." Peter was initially perplexed by the vision of the animals in the sheet lowered from heaven and accompanied by the command to kill and eat these unclean animals. Now the meaning of that vision had become very clear. "The lesson had sunk in. Peter had a freedom he had never known before (cf. 15:7-9). He succumbed on a later occasion to the pressure of Jewish-Christian strictness (Gal. 2:11-12), but in principle he recognized that the middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile had been broken down in Christ (cf. Eph. 2:14)" (Harrison, Interpreting Acts: The Expanding Church, Zondervan). No longer was there to be a distinction made between Jews and Gentiles. The response of faith and the conversion of Cornelius and his household confirmed God's plan for the gospel to go to all nations without distinction. Peter's actions were not popular with everyone. Many Jewish believers thought Gentiles must follow Jewish practices before they could follow Christ. This reminds us that our efforts to obey the Lord will not always be appreciated—even by fellow believers. We should not seek to offend anyone, but we should never let such reactions derail us from obeying God and His Word. It is also worth noting that God answered Cornelius's prayer by sending Peter to him. God could have saved Cornelius immediately, but the normal and stated plan of God is to use His people to reach others with the gospel. We need not wait for any special call. He has already called us to take the gospel to the world.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Inclusive by Clarification of Mission (Acts 10:19-23)**

#### *Clarification through the Holy Spirit (19-20)*

Holy Spirit clarifies by guiding into all truth (John 16:13)

Holy Spirit clarifies by directing where to go (Acts 8:29)

Holy Spirit clarifies by direction who to use (Acts 13:2)

Holy Spirit clarifies by preventing desires not of God (Acts 16:6-7)

Holy Spirit clarifies by using others to persuade us (Acts 21:4)

#### *Clarification through listening (21-22)*

Listen because God's wonders provide knowledge (Prov 18:15)

Listen because God's blesses those who listen (Matt 13:16)

Listen because God's words are true (Prov 8:4-9)

Listen because understanding of God's wonders have been given to us (Matt 13:11-12)

Listen because secrets have been revealed (Rom 16:25-26)

#### *Clarification through obedience (23)*

Obedience to show faith (Gen 22:9-12)

Obedience to witness (Acts 8:26-31)

Obedience to follow Jesus (Matt 9:9)

Obedience that leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)

Obedience that shows that we love God (2 John 6)

### **Inclusive by Meeting Face to Face (Acts 10:24-27)**

#### *Gathering family and friends (24)*

Gathering to involve all in the sphere of influence (Deut 16:11)

Gathering to get teaching (Mic 4:2)

Gathering to seek God (Zech 8:21)

Gathering to tell others about God and His blessings (Mark 5:18-20)

#### *Realizing all are equal (25-26)*

Equal but some can give interpretations for understanding (Dan 2:30)

Equal but some can bring good news (Acts 14:11-15)

Equal fellow servants (Rev 19:10)

#### *Be in unity of purpose (27)*

Unity of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:3-6)

Unity through the Church (Eph 4:11-13)

Unity through love (Col 3:14)

Unity in Christ (Phil 2:1-4)

### **Inclusive by Applying God's Truths (Acts 10:28-29)**

#### *Accept God's truths (28)*

Accept God's truths and His works (Ps 77:12)

Accept God's truths and His ways (Ps 143:5)

Accept God's truths in worship (Ps 48:9)

Accept God's truths by thinking on them (Phil 4:8)

#### *Obey God's truths (29)*

Obey God's truths because God hates lying and dishonesty (Zech 8:16-17)

Obey God's truths because it's the only way to be in fellowship with God (Ps 15:1-2)

Obey God's truths because we are members of one body in Christ (Eph 4:25)

Obey God's truths because in truth there is freedom (John 8:32)

Obey God's truths because it brings peace with God (Phil 4:7-9)

### **Inclusive by Prayer and Guidance (Acts 10:30-33)**

#### *Consistently pray (30-31)*

Pray about everything (Phil 4:6-7)

Pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17)

Pray while suffering (James 5:13)

Pray for others (Rom 12:9-13)

Pray in the Spirit (Eph 6:17-18)

#### *Listen and follow God's guidance (32-33)*

Guidance into obedience through imitation (Eph 5:1-2)

Guidance into obedience through suffering (1 Peter 2:21)

Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)

Guidance by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:18)

Guidance into insight (Ps 119:99-100)