

Home Group Notes For 31st JULY 2022

Welcome

Discuss together the people who either brought you to Jesus or helped you faith deepen on your Christian journey.

Worship

Read or sing James Seddon's hymn:

<p>1. Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake! God's saving news to all the nations take; proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and King, that all the world his worthy praise may sing.</p> <p>2. Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all; he will in grace respond to all who call: how shall they call if they have never heard the gracious invitation of his word?</p>	<p>3. Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide: share God's good gifts let no one be denied; live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose, your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.</p> <p>4. Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise! go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies; go till all nations his great name adore and serve him, Lord and king for evermore.</p>
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Word

Read Acts 10:1-29, Luke 7:1-10, Genesis 12:1-3, 22:15-18, 26:1-6, 28:10-15, Matthew 28:16-20.

- Think of the different sorts of people that come to Jesus as their Lord in the Gospels and Acts.
- Why might a centurion be a completely wrong sort of person to have been targeted by the Holy Spirit to become a Christian?
- What might be qualities of this centurion that does in fact make him an ideal evangelist?
- From what you know of Peter in the Gospels how would you summarise his strengths and weaknesses?

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- In his vision Peter is confronted in his Jewish understandings as to what is “clean” and “unclean”. It appears, at first sight, that this relates to food. How can the food vision be extended to relate to people also?
- In the Genesis readings how does God see the role of the Israelites in relation to other peoples?
- Can you think of any other Old Testament passages that show God’s love of gentiles as well as the Jews?
- Think of the instances in the Gospels when Jesus ignored the social and religious rules around gentiles and the “unclean”. Why do you think Peter still has his hang-ups about them?
- Peter immediately responds in at least four different ways to his new understanding. What are they?
- How was he rewarded and how did he report back and persuade the believers in Jerusalem to make a momentous change in policy?
- What was the result of this for mission and how did it help to execute Jesus’s Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20?

Witness

- What lessons does this passage teach us in carrying out the Great Commission, in relation to:
 - Prayer
 - Listening to and obeying God
 - Being secure in our knowledge of the Gospel
 - How we give the message
 - Understanding that God has already primed people
 - Understanding that people respond in many different ways
 - “Untouchables” in our own town, work, or family
 - The cultural norms that we might have that conflict with God’s Word
 - Our own ongoing learning and development as Christians.