

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

BACKGROUND:

While Peter was staying with Simon the tanner in Joppa, he had a vision about a sheet with all kinds of animals. In the vision, a voice came to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." When Peter refused, the voice said, "What God has made clean, do not call common." While he was still pondering the vision, the Spirit told him that three men are looking for him and to accompany them, for they were sent by God.

Peter and the men, went to Caesarea and were greeted by Cornelius, his relatives, and close friends. They were gentiles. Peter, shared the good news of Jesus with them and while Peter was talking, the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius and the others. Then all the Gentiles spoke in tongues and were extolling God. Seeing that the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit like they did at the Pentacost, Peter commanded the Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

ACTS 11:1 – 18 PETER REPORTS TO THE CHURCH

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³ "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." ⁴ But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶ Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷ And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹ And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

ASSIGNMENT:

For our next meeting, please read Acts 11:1 - 18 and be prepared to discuss the questions.

QUESTIONS:

The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles received the word of God. When Peter went to Jerusalem, he was confronted by the circumcision party.

1. What was the reason the circumcision party criticized Peter?

2. Peter then spoke starting with his vision in Joppa. Why did Peter refuse the voice saying to him to “Rise, Peter; kill and eat”?

3. The voice spoke to Peter again. This happened 3 times and then was drawn up into heaven. What was the second thing the voice said to Peter and why do you think this happened 3 times?

4. Then the Spirit told Peter to go with men from Caesarea. When he arrived at the man's house in Caesarea, he was told by the man there that an angel told him to bring Peter.

a. What did he expect Peter to do?

b. Can you remember any of the people who shared the gospel with you before you were saved?

5. When Peter was sharing the gospel with the folks in Caesarea, what happened to the Gentiles and why did the circumcision party change their attitude and glorify God?

6. Peter understood that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with Gentiles, but God showed him not to call any person unclean. The Jews had a long history of being God's chosen people and as such did not mix with Gentiles. It is in this tension which Peter and the other Jews are trying to understand what God is doing with the Gentiles. We may experience similar biases, although probably not as deep. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says,

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

> Share how God has changed your heart to love rather than hate those whom you find unlovable.