

Part 21 | **The Gospel is for All**

Acts 10:1-11:18

God shows no **PARTIALITY** (10:1-16)

salvation to Cornelius—a *Gentile!* 10:1-8; Hebrews 11:6; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Jeremiah 29:13-14

God aims to crush our bias 10:9-16; Romans 2:11

so neither should **WE** (10:17-33)

James 2:1-13

as a group toward individuals

as individuals toward a group

—the Gospel is **FOR ALL.** (10:34-11:18)

for *any* sinner to be saved 10:34-48; John 3:15-16; Romans 1:16

for every Christian to be changed 11:1-18; Romans 8:28-30; 12:1-2

GETTING OUR ATTENTION

Cornelius's story demonstrates God's willingness to use extraordinary means to reach those who desire to know him.

God does not play favorites and does not hide from those who want to find him. God sent his Son "to seek and save those . . . who are lost" (Lk. 19:10 NLT) because he loves the whole world—and that includes Peter, Cornelius, **and you.**

Even at this very moment, the Father is drawing men and women, boys, and girls to himself (John 6:44).

Cornelius had been seeking God, and in Acts 10 we see God seeking Cornelius. He initiates it by speaking to Cornelius through a vision featuring a heavenly messenger.

God spoke to other Bible characters through a variety of means—the burning bush of Moses (Exodus 3:1–4); the talking donkey of Balaam (Numbers 22:21–30); the gentle whisper heard by Elijah (1 Kings 19:11–14); the strange object lessons of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 13:1–11). Simply put, God speaks to his people in remarkably different ways—through the written Scriptures, through the words of others, through circumstances and events.

In a profound mystery, God seeks after and speaks to us, yet it is up to us to listen, to be perceptive, to be alert.

What is God trying to say to you today?

Adapted from Bruce B. Barton and Grant R. Osborne, Acts, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1999), 170–171.



Text us at **833-271-8805.**

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

What's Your Story?

This weekend, we learned the story of Cornelius and his conversion. He started as a devout and God-fearing man who gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly, and along the way he found genuine salvation in Christ and became filled with the Holy Spirit. From Cornelius' example, which of the following disciplines from his life would be easiest and which would be hardest for you to engage in:

- Genuinely seek God's guidance and direction in your prayers.
- Become more disciplined in your study, leading and encouraging others to do the same.
- Invite one of your non-believing friends or family to check out the messages at Wawasee Bible.
- Open your heart and mind to new ways that challenge you and help you to grow.
- Treat those who are currently outside your circle with genuine care and respect.

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. Our calling from the Lord—**to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us**—can sometimes be difficult to be consistently obedient. It can be made a bit easier when someone comes to us and asks us to tell them about Jesus—like in this week's story of Peter and his role in the conversion of Cornelius and his family. But what about the people who have either harmed us, betrayed us, mistreated us or are simply so wicked we don't believe they deserve God's forgiveness? Looking at the five disciplines listed above in "What's Your Story," what is a step you can take that will help to change your attitude to reflect a willingness in sharing God's love with these people?
2. This week let's look back at the story of Jonah, but this time focusing on the part of the story we didn't learn about in Sunday school. It takes place after God had shown compassion on Nineveh—just as Jonah feared He might.

– **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.

– **Underline** what you think is important to remember.

– **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

¹ But Jonah was very upset. He became angry. ² prayed to the Lord and said, "Lord, isn't this exactly what I thought would happen when I was still at home? That's why I was so quick to run away to

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible “home”, we challenge you to pursue **three things**:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Acts 10:34-36, 42-43 (NIV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: “I now **realize** how **true** it is that God does not **show favoritism** ³⁵ but **accepts** from **every nation** the one who **fears** him and does what is **right**. ³⁶ You **know** the **message** God **sent** to the **people** of **Israel**, **announcing** the **good news** of **peace** through **Jesus Christ**, who is **Lord** of all.

... ⁴² He commanded us to **preach** to the **people** and to **testify** that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the **dead**. ⁴³ All the prophets **testify** about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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life groups Study Guide (continued)

Tarshish. I knew that you are gracious. You are tender and kind. You are slow to get angry. You are full of love. You are a God who takes pity on people. You don't want to destroy them. ³ Lord, take away my life. I'd rather die than live.” ⁴ But the Lord replied, “Do you have any right to be angry?” ⁵ Jonah left the city. He sat down at a place east of it. There he put some branches over his head. He sat in their shade. He waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the Lord God sent a vine and made it grow up over Jonah. It gave him more shade for his head. It made him more comfortable. Jonah was very happy he had the vine. ⁷ But before sunrise the next day, God sent a worm. It chewed the vine so much that it dried up. ⁸ When the sun rose, God sent a burning east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head. It made him very weak. He wanted to die. So he said, “I'd rather die than live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Do you have any right to be angry about what happened to the vine?” “I do,” he said. “In fact, I'm angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this vine. But you did not take care of it. You did not make it grow. It grew up in one night and died the next. ¹¹ Nineveh has more than 120,000 people. They can't tell right from wrong. Nineveh also has a lot of cattle. So shouldn't I show concern for that great city?” **JONAH 4:1-11 (NirV)**

- What made Jonah so angry?
 - Is there an area in your life where you are angry with God because He hasn't responded as you had wanted?
3. The story of the plant in Jonah 4 teaches us that God reserves the right to be compassionate to all people, even those we think don't deserve His compassion.
- Has there ever been a person or group who falls into this category for you? What did they do to make you feel that way?
 - Do you still feel that way about them?
 - What makes it so hard for us to get past our hurt?
 - Is there somebody you know who's been severely mistreated and lived to forgive their oppressor?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Pray especially that God would help us forgive and love... as well as crush our biases toward people.

Divide into separate groups of men and women and pray for one another.

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, March 19, 2023



PART 21

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ACTS 10:1-11:18



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! You can also access today's bulletin using the same QR or link.

