



Discussion Questions for **Acts 10** -Week of Nov. 29th - Dec. 5th, 2009

Warm Up Who is your favorite character from the animated Christmas specials and why? (i.e. Rudolph, Frosty, Yukon *Cornelius* etc.!)

Questions for Interaction

- Our faith as Gentiles finds its roots in **Acts 10**. Read it aloud and stop to ask questions or discuss things that grab your attention. What does this chapter teach us about *the Church of Jesus Christ*?
- In **Acts 10:9-16**, we see that Peter denies God's invitation to eat of the animals brought down from heaven. It's astonishing to most of us that Peter actually tells God "NO"! (see v.14) He was steeped in his traditions and couldn't fathom stepping outside them even if God said to do so. In a way, Peter was limiting God. Where do you tend to limit God most in your life?
- Peter and the Jews would have considered Cornelius an outsider; an unclean "misfit." God makes it clear to Peter, however, that salvation through faith in Christ is available to everyone (v.15). Are there people or "misfits" in your life that you sometimes feel are beyond God's grace? Who do you find particularly difficult to reach out to? How might you be intentional to show the love of Christ to these people either personally or together as a group?
- If God was looking for "good people" to go to Heaven, then Cornelius certainly would have earned that right. What does God want to say to Cornelius and all morally good and religious people? See specifically **Acts 10:42,43** as well as **Isaiah 64:6**.
- In **Gal. 2:11-13** we see how greatly Peter struggled in his natural inclination to "people please". Read this passage, as well as the verses that follow in **2:14-21**. What are Paul's main points here? In light of what you've studied in **Acts 10**, how do they impact you personally?

Wrap Up Do you remember the story of Jonah? Thinking he could get away from the Lord, Jonah fled and refused God's heart to reach the lost. In Acts 10, Peter was willing to re-examine his traditions and prejudices in light of God's word, and he shared God's heart for a lost world. Are you more like Jonah or Peter today? As you close, pray for a softening of your hearts toward those who need Jesus.