

**Acts 10:34-48 - “Gentiles Receive the Good News”**  
**December 20, 2020 - Outline and Scripture**

**1. Greet one another, begin with prayer, and read Acts 10:34-48.**

**2. Remind the class about the events of Acts 9:32—10:33.**

**3. Discuss the gospel mini-sermon of Peter in Acts 10:34-43.**

*34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, 40 but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear; 41 not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

—Whole picture comes together for Peter: God shows no favoritism

—Not a claim that all religious views are accepted; rather that people regardless of ethnicity, race, language, heritage, etc., may be welcomed through Jesus Christ

—Summary of the basic gospel: centrality of life, death, and resurrection of Jesus

**4. Discuss the coming of the Spirit upon the Gentiles in Acts 10:44-48a.**

*44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. 45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, 47 “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48a And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

—Peter’s sermon cut a little short by the Spirit’s coming to the Gentile listeners

—Amazement by the Jewish believers (lit. “faithful ones of the circumcision”)

—Often called a “Gentile Pentecost”; baptism follows with no objection from those present

## **5. Discuss Cornelius’ invitation to Peter in Acts 10:48b.**

*48b Then they asked him to remain for some days.*

—Often slides by that Peter (and probably some on his team) stay for several days

—Why? Hospitality, fellowship, and gratitude are strong possibilities

—But also: Gentiles’ need for instruction; what does it mean to follow Christ? Period of education and teaching is often part of the Acts pattern (see 2:42-47; 5:12b; 9:19b)

## **6. Close in prayer.**

### **Suggestions for Discussion and Reflection**

*—Peter sees the true openness of the gospel for the first time. How does this openness speak to your heart and mind? How does it make a difference for your life?*

*—Why do you think the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is foundational to Christianity? What would Christianity be like without this emphasis? What would your life be like?*

*—Why is it so important that the Holy Spirit comes to the Gentiles too? What does the Spirit do in the life of the Christian? What is essential about the Spirit’s presence?*

*—When have you seen God clearly at work in a situation in which you really didn’t expect Him to be active and present? What did you gain from that experience?*

*—How important are relationships to our life in Christ? How do we develop and nurture healthy, supportive relationships with fellow Christians?*

*—Instruction in the faith appears to be a key factor to spiritual growth. What do Christians, especially new ones, need to learn about following Christ as Lord?*