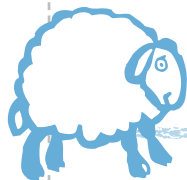




Lesson Eleven

Peter Obeys God's Call



Nourishing Your Heart

Scripture

Acts 10

Bible Truth

When God called Peter to share the good news of Jesus with Cornelius and other Gentiles, Peter obeyed.

Lesson Aim

To find ways to love those who are different from ourselves and tell them about Jesus.

Many of us hesitate to reach out to people who are different from ourselves. We may feel insecure or afraid, or maybe we are unmotivated or disinterested, choosing to interact with those with whom we feel comfortable.

Indeed, we discover that it is hard to move beyond our comfort zone. It means opening our hearts and minds; it means breaking down walls and divisions; it means dealing with pride and prejudice; it means confronting our ignorance and indifference. It means, most of all, being receptive to the Holy Spirit's transforming power in our lives.

However, when Jesus was about to ascend to heaven, he told his disciples to take God's message of salvation to the whole world—to all people groups—and he promised to send his Holy Spirit to help them do the job (Matthew 28:16–20).

Three times God spoke to Peter. He wanted to clearly impress on his servant that he must move beyond the Jewish world and take the good news to Gentiles. This was a difficult lesson for Peter. It involved new thinking and important changes. Most of all, it required an obedient heart. But Peter's incredulity and hesitation were short-lived; he listened to the Lord and obeyed his commands, and consequently the gospel spread quickly among Gentiles.

Ask God to give you a mind and heart for those who are different from you, and the ability to help your children begin to develop a loving world vision.

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you a mind and heart
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different from you.

Bible Background

God had given the Jews instructions regarding clean and unclean animals to teach them the difference between holy and unholy. They were called to be different—a people separated unto the Lord. But now the time had come when the distinction between Jew and Gentile would no longer exist, and God chose Peter, a Jew, to carry the gospel to Cornelius, a Gentile, and his company. Following Peter's proclamation, there was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all present—a distinct mark of God's favor.

Memory Verse

REVIEW:

MATTHEW 5:16

PHILIPPIANS 2:13

EPHESIANS 2:8–9