SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 10

What God Has Cleansed

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 10:34–35

“Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.””

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 10

God answered a Roman soldier's prayers and broke down a wall in Peter's heart in the same week. This week He wants to show you that no one is too far outside for His grace — not the man you have written off, and not you — and that everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

God Noticed

READ · ACTS 10:1–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What kind of man was Cornelius, what was he doing when the angel came, and what did the angel tell him to do (10:2–6)?

REFLECT

The angel said, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God" (10:4). How does it change your prayers to know God notices them, even the ones nobody else sees?

REFLECT

Cornelius was devout and generous, and yet God sent him to hear about Jesus (10:5–6; 11:14). Why is being a "good man" not the same as knowing Christ?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray today for one "good man" you know who does not yet know Jesus, and ask God for a door to talk with him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 10:34–35)

DAY 2 OF 5

By No Means, Lord

READ · ACTS 10:9–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Peter see in the trance, what did the voice tell him, and how did Peter answer (10:11–14)?

REFLECT

Peter said, "By no means, Lord" (10:14) — a "no" and a "Lord" in the same breath. Where are you calling Jesus Lord while still telling Him no?

REFLECT

The voice said, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy" (10:15). Is there something in your own past you still treat as too dirty for God to clean?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the one area where you have been telling God "no," and pray, "Yes, Lord," over it by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 10:34–35)

DAY 3 OF 5

I Have Sent Them

READ · ACTS 10:17–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who showed up at the gate while Peter was still puzzling over the vision, and what did the Spirit tell him (10:17–20)?

REFLECT

The Spirit said, "accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself" (10:20). Who has God put at your door lately that you have been slow to welcome?

REFLECT

Peter "invited them in and gave them lodging" (10:23) — Gentile strangers in a Jewish house. What would it look like for you to make room for someone very different from you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Invite someone outside your usual circle to share a meal, a coffee, or a conversation this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 10:34–35)

DAY 4 OF 5

I Too Am Just a Man

READ · ACTS 10:24–33

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who had Cornelius gathered, what did he do when Peter came in, and what did Peter say (10:24–28)?

REFLECT

Peter said, "God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean" (10:28). What kind of man do you secretly write off — and what would change if you believed God could cleanse him?

REFLECT

Cornelius said, "we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord" (10:33). How do you usually come to God's Word — ready to hear, or ready to argue?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you read Scripture today, say Cornelius's words out loud: "I am here present before God to hear."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 10:34–35)

DAY 5 OF 5

Everyone Who Believes

READ · ACTS 10:34–48

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Peter say about Jesus' life, death, resurrection and role as Judge, and what happened while he was still speaking (10:38–44)?

REFLECT

Peter preached that Jesus is "Judge of the living and the dead" and that "everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins" (10:42–43). Which of those two truths do you need to hear most right now, and why?

REFLECT

The Holy Spirit fell while Peter was still speaking (10:44), and the believers who came with Peter were amazed (10:45). When was the last time God surprised you by working in someone you did not expect?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God by name today for forgiving your sins through Jesus' name, and tell one person that "everyone" includes him too.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 10:34–35)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

God worked on Cornelius in Caesarea and on Peter in Joppa at the same time (10:3, 9–10). Where have you seen God set things up on both sides before you even knew what He was doing?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Peter had to unlearn a lifetime of thinking about "unclean" people (10:14, 28). What walls — race, background, record, church style — still stand among us, and how do we take one down this week?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

The Spirit fell on the Gentiles "just as we did" (10:47). What does it mean for our group that every believer here has received the same Spirit, no matter where he came from?

MY PRAYER

Lord of all, You show no partiality and You have cleansed what I called unclean, so today I open my door and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 10:34–35

“Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.””