



Small Group Questions: Increasing our Appetite for the Unexpected

© 2015 Seacoast Church. All Rights Reserved.

Read

Acts 10; Isaiah 55: 8–9; and 1 Corinthians 9:22–23

Reflect

In Acts 10, a Roman centurion named Cornelius has a vision while praying, that tells him to send men to Joppa to find Simon, known as Peter. Cornelius obeys and while his men are approaching the city, Peter has a vision of a sheet being lowered by its four corners, carrying animals, birds and reptiles. Peter is told to eat these animals that to him are unclean. The voice tells him, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” What do you think the animals on the sheet represent? Why does this story have huge historical significance to us?

Pastor Josh Surratt offers three things we can learn from the story of Cornelius and Peter:

1. God wants to do some surprising things in my life.
 - a. Have you grown comfortable in your routine? How do you react when something disrupts it?
 - b. What keeps you from enjoying God’s surprises? How open to them are you? How might you become more open?
2. The extraordinary can often be found in ordinary places.
 - a. God chose to speak through his Spirit to Cornelius and Peter in an ordinary situation—but while they were praying and posturing their hearts toward Him. How has God shown up in a surprising way in your life, but in an ordinary place or situation?
 - b. In what ways could you alter your routine (and calendar) to help increase the likelihood of hearing what God is saying to you? Have you neglected or stopped doing things that put you in a position to hear God?
3. You might be surprised by the kind of people God wants to reach through you.
 - a. Helping a Gentile like Cornelius was not on Peter’s radar. Peter’s focus was on the Jews. How has God surprised you with someone or something not even on your radar?
 - b. How did you respond? What was the result?

Pastor Josh describes some common barriers between us and those God wants to reach through us:

1. Preferences: We can grow comfortable with our routine, our friends and the size of our church. But God is as interested in those who will be as much as those who already are.
2. Prejudice: Like Peter, we often have pre-conceived ideas of how God is going to work and the people he wants to use and love.
3. Pride: We may think something is beneath us to do, or that we are better than someone else, but we need to follow Peter’s example by sharing the Gospel and keeping the focus on Jesus rather than letting someone treat us with reverence that belongs to Christ.

What barriers are preventing you from reaching people for God?
Do you identify most with Cornelius or Peter? Why?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?