

The Way of the Early Church, Part 6: Cornelius and Peter

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **The Way of the Early Church**
 - In this series we unlock several powerful eternal principles in order to see God do mighty things!
- **This Week: Cornelius and Peter**
- This is actually a huge moment in time. The Gentiles are about to be included!
 - Who are the chosen people? Since this moment everyone can be chosen!
 - Have you ever felt unchosen?
 - Compare to **Matthew 15:21-28**.
 - Was this woman included? She fought her way into being included!
 - But God's plan was not to exclude the Gentiles forever. **Isaiah 49:6**
- **Acts 10:1-48**
 - So, how God has brought in the Gentiles! That means everyone who fits into **Acts 10:34-35!**
 - How do you think the church responded?
 - A little iffy. **Acts 11:1-4**
 - So, Peter tells them the whole story. This finishes with **Acts 11:17-18**.
 - That is amazing! Compare that to **Acts 22:21-22!**
 - Why do you think the Christian Jews responded so differently than the others?
- I often think "If I could change one thing it would be..." Here are my three wishes!
 - First, I'd make every believer have a secure sense of belonging to the Body.
 - People still feel that they have to fight to belong. That's just wrong.
 - Is that something you struggle with?
 - But, you go ahead and belong like the Canaanite woman!
 - What are some things that would stop you from pressing in like the Canaanite woman?
 - Read **1 Corinthians 12:14-15**
 - Second, I'd make every believer understand that they are actually needed.
 - That's not as nice as it sounds. With belonging comes responsibility!
 - If you are actually needed, then your absence (or your inability to function) is an injury to the whole Body. **1 Corinthians 12:26**
 - What are some things that can get done if we all work together?
 - What are some things that could never get done unless we work together?
 - Last, I'd make every believer understand that we all need each other.
 - **1 Corinthians 12:21**
 - Is this the least understood verse in the NT?
 - The only way Satan can win is through division in the church.
 - Let's love each other as Christ loved us.
- The Apostle Paul puts the inclusion of the Gentiles into beautiful words. Let's read them from Ephesians 2 as we close.
 - If you feel far away from God, or if you feel like you don't belong, then listen carefully.
 - **Ephesians 2:11-20**
- Pray for each other before you finish up!