

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on [thorncreek.church/live](http://thorncreek.church/live))

**Warming up**

1. Can you be a "good person" and have hate in your heart; can you be a "good person", go to church, and look down on others?

**Digging Deeper & Application**

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Read Acts 9:32-43.
  - a. Who wrote the Book of Acts?
  - b. Who was it written to?
  - c. Who were the two people that Peter healed?
  - d. What happened as a result of these miracles?
  - e. What town was Peter in?
  - f. Who was Peter living with?
4. Read Acts 10:1-2,
  - a. What kind of person was Cornelius?
  - b. Was he a Christian?
  - c. Where does Cornelius live and where does Peter live? Why is this significant?
  - d. According to Acts 10:23-25, did Peter receive these servants?
  - e. What was Cornelius' response when he met Peter?
5. Read Acts 10:26-29,
  - a. How did Peter respond?
  - b. Do you think Peter knew why he was in Cornelius' home?
  - c. What does this say about God's will for our lives?
  - d. Do you think God discloses His full plan to us, or parts of the plan?
  - e. How do you handle knowing part of the plan?

6. Pastor Ruben said, "You smell, and God loves you." Does that bring you comfort? In what ways can we look down on other people's sins? Do we rate sins? Does everyone need God's grace?
7. According to Acts 10:34-42, what was Peter's response? What does this say about the gospel?
8. What encouraging thing happened to Gentiles in Acts 10:44-48?
  - a. Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit?
  - b. If you call yourself a Christian, invite the Holy Spirit to enter you, fill you, and lead you.

### **Application**

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- "Don't get hung up on a plan or destination. When you're open to all kinds of destinations, and focus on courage, character, and humility; then the right choices will be easier, not harder." (Carly Fiorina, Former Hewlett Packard CEO, 2016 Presidential candidate).
- "The story of Cornelius not only shows the necessity of the gospel but it indicates that God will move heaven and earth to bring the gospel to those who are ready to receive it." (Chuck Swindoll).
- "Simon was a socio-economic outcast. He lived on the margins of society. He was a "dirty" man in both a literal and figurative sense. Tanners worked with dead animals. The filth and the stench were awful. Just imagine how Simon looked and smelled at the end of a hot day. He would have been the object of social disdain. Almost anyone would have felt superior to him. But Simon the tanner had joined the Jesus movement, and found acceptance there that society never gave him." (Journey with Jesus Article)
- There's no black Jesus, or white Jesus, it's Jesus the Son of God.