<u>ACTS – Cornelius</u> Jonathan Cleveland Acts 10 February 26, 2023

### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

### Pursuing the things God wants will require discomfort

We need regular stretching and challenging to attain the things God values.

\*How well do you tend to tolerate discomfort?

### God can use discomfort to surface areas we haven't trusted Him

He wants our identity to be solely tied to our relationship with Christ.

Read and discuss Acts 10:9-16

<sup>9</sup> About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup> He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. <sup>11</sup> He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. <sup>13</sup> Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

14 "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

<sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

<sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

\*What do you see in this passage about God? About people?

\*How do you see God using discomfort for Peter here?

\*What are some things-even good and spiritual things- we tend to attach our identity to?

# Peter allows discomfort to lead him to new places

Read and discuss Acts 10:25-29

<sup>25</sup> As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. <sup>26</sup> But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

<sup>27</sup> While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. <sup>28</sup> He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. <sup>29</sup> So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection.

\*What can we learn from Peter's words and actions?

\*What part does humility play in facing discomfort?

# All the discomfort God brings into our life is for the purpose of softening us to His leading

To have strong faith means a willingness to tolerate some discomfort.

\*Can you think of a time discomfort made you more prideful or hardened your heart? Can you think of a time you said 'yes' despite your discomfort?

\*Is there a place that your preference for comfort is limiting your ability to grow in faith?

\*What are you feeling discomfort in your life? How is the Kingdom moving in that area?

\*If there is a resistance to God in your area of discomfort, can you name what that resistance is really about?