

## **There is consumer culture in America**

Consumer culture has marked all of us in some ways.

- \*Where do you think your expectations of comfort or accommodation has shaped your expectations and pattern of life?
- \*What happens when people who have been raised in and marked by hyper-consumerism participate in the Church?
- \*What sort of churches do people raised in this culture look for? Create?

## **The Holy Spirit is really bad at customer service**

Read and discuss Acts 11:1-18 (NIV)

*11 The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 12 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him 13 and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”*

*14 Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: 15 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. 16 I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. 17 Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’*

*18 “I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’*

*19 “The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ 20 This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.*

*21 “Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. 22 The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. 23 He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. 24 He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’*

*25 “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. 26 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 27 So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”*

*28 When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”*

- \*What does this passage show us about ways the Holy Spirit works?

- \*How has the Holy Spirit stretched you beyond your comfort zone?

## **The early church was highly attuned to the leading of the Holy Spirit**

The focus was, “What is the Holy Spirit doing?” and ‘How can I respond to that?’

- \*How is this a countercultural shift for us?

- \*Can the Spirit both be kind, generous and loving, and also lead us to something we don’t want to do?

## **Walking by the Spirit means the Spirit is directing us, not us directing the Spirit**

This means we are looking to be led.

- \*How can we practically turn off, or turn down, the consumer in us?

- \*What is an honest assessment of your willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit?

- \*Where is the Spirit nudging you to something that might not be comfortable?

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[Access Pulpit Rock's Liturgy of the Hours for this week](#)