

ONE message. people. mission.



Grace Illustrated

Acts 9:1-31

Overview

- **Setup: God promises to bless all the families of the earth through the seed of Abraham (Gen. 12.1-3)**
 - This promise is fulfilled in Galatians 3.7-9
 - Christ is that seed
 - All those in Christ are in the seed, or lineage of Abraham
- **Missions Exists Because Proper Worship Doesn't**
 - Stories of Aeneas & Tabitha are authenticators of apostolic ministry of Peter
 - They illustrate the continuation of Jesus' ministry through His servants
 - The building of the Body of Christ through like ministry
 - Cornelius is a God fearing, prayerful, alms giving, Gentile man
 - Angel of the Lord speaks to him and calls him to send messengers to get Peter
 - Peter likewise has a vision where God speaks & tells Peter that He has made the unclean, clean
 - See Christ making foods clean (Mark 7.19)
 - Being said three times points to the three gentiles that come for Peter
 - Peter is obedient and goes and proclaims the Gospel to Cornelius & his family & friends
 - See a full Gospel presentation in vss. 36-43
 - Cornelius is not saved prior to his believing (11.14)
 - The Gospel advancing to the Gentiles is the first step of the "ends of the earth" (1.8)
 - It is also a fulfilling of the promise given to Abraham
- **God is...**
 - A God of History: He is acting in History to bring about His purposes
 - God of Promises Kept: God is faithful and always keeps His promises
 - God of Blessing: It pleases the Father to bring blessings to His own
 - God is the God of Mission: God is on a Mission to make a Name for Himself in all the world

Overview

Discussion starter: Why would our culture affirm the statement: "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere."

1. What is wrong with this statement?
2. Why do you think God has a mission to fill the earth with worshipers? Is God just "needy?"

3. Where do you draw encouragement from God moving in history to bring Gospel to Cornelius?
4. That God is moving in this way teaches us...what?
5. As Christians, how should we be a part of the Mission of God individually? How can we be a part of the Mission of God corporately as a church?
6. What seems to be the thing that "saves" Cornelius, his family and friends?
7. Has the Gospel grown stale in your life? If so, why? If not, why?
8. How does your love for God grow as you consider He is a God of History, Promise Keeping, Blessing, and Mission?
9. Who can you share this good news with this week?
10. Spend some time in prayer and thanksgiving that the good news got to you who believe.

Accountability Question: Who can you share this good news with this week?