**Lesson 11**

**Acts 9:32−10:48 Peter, healing and raising, Cornelius**

*In our last lesson we read about the conversion of Saul and his encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. We also read about enemies that Saul had among both Jews and Jewish Christians. From this point on, Acts of the Apostles will refer to Saul by his Greek name, Paul. Saul was his Hebrew name. This week the focus of Acts returns to Peter.*

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week? Was there a particular verse in Acts 9 – 10 that you found inspiring in some way?**
2. **Look for footnotes in your bible that might help explain *why* Peter was traveling in verses Acts 9:31-43.**

**Acts 9:31-43 31**The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the holy Spirit it grew in numbers. **32**As Peter was passing through every region, he went down to the holy ones living in Lydda. **33**There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been confined to bed for eight years, for he was paralyzed. **34**Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed.” He got up at once. **35**And all the inhabitants of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

 **36**Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated means Dorcas). She was completely occupied with good deeds and almsgiving. **37**Now during those days she fell sick and died, so after washing her, they laid [her] out in a room upstairs. **38**Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” **39**So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs where all the widows came to him weeping and showing him the tunics and cloaks that Dorcas had made while she was with them. **40**Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to her body and said, “Tabitha, rise up.” She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. **41**He gave her his hand and raised her up, and when he had called the holy ones and the widows, he presented her alive. **42**This became known all over Joppa, and many came to believe in the Lord. **43**And he stayed a long time in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.

1. **How did the message of the Gospel reach the people of Lydda, Sharon and Joppa before Peter arrived there?**

**Luke 10:1-121**After this the Lord appointed seventy[-two] others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. **2**He said to them, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. **3**Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. **4**Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. **5**Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this household.’ **6**If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. **7**Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. **8**Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, **9**cure the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God is at hand for you.’ **10**Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, **11**‘The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.’ Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. **12**I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town.

1. **Peter’s work is done in the name of Jesus Christ. What is Peter able to do for Aeneas? How does this help to convert the people in Lydda? See Acts 9:32-35 above and Luke 5:17-26 below.**

**Luke 5:17-26 17**One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem, and the power of the Lord was with him for healing. **18**And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set [him] in his presence. **19**But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. **20**When he saw their faith, he said, “As for you, your sins are forgiven.” **21**Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?” **22**Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply, “What are you thinking in your hearts? **23**Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? **24**But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home.” **25**He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. **26**Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, “We have seen incredible things today.”

1. **Compare the raising of Tabitha In Acts 9:39-43 to Elisha’s actions in 2 Kings 4:32-37, and the actions of Jesus’ in Luke 7:11-17. How are these similar? How are they different?**

**2 Kings 4:32-3732**When Elisha reached the house, he found the boy dead, lying on the bed. **33**He went in, closed the door on them both, and prayed to the Lord. **34**Then he lay upon the child on the bed, placing his mouth upon the child’s mouth, his eyes upon the eyes, and his hands upon the hands. As Elisha stretched himself over the child, the boy’s flesh became warm. **35**He arose, paced up and down the room, and then once more stretched himself over him, and the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. **36**Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, “Call the Shunammite.” He called her, and she came to him, and Elisha said to her, “Take your son.” **37**She came in and fell at his feet in homage; then she took her son and left.

**Luke 7:11-17 11**Soon afterward he journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. **12**As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. **13**When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, “Do not weep.” **14**He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, “Young man, I tell you, arise!” **15**The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. **16**Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, “A great prophet has arisen in our midst,” and “God has visited his people.” **17**This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

**(Jesus raised others as well. If you are curious check out the Raising of Jairus’ daughter in Luke 8:40-56 and the Raising of Lazarus in John 11:1-44**.)

1. **What is significant about Peter’s stay with Simon the Tanner?**

**Check footnotes for help and Acts 9:43.**

1. **What do we know about Cornelius? Who is he? See Acts 10: 1-8.**

 **1**Now in Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Cohort called the Italica, **2**devout and God-fearing along with his whole household, who used to give alms generously to the Jewish people and pray to God constantly. **3**One afternoon about three o’clock, he saw plainly in a vision an angel of God come in to him and say to him, “Cornelius.” **4**He looked intently at him and, seized with fear, said, “What is it, sir?” He said to him, “Your prayers and almsgiving have ascended as a memorial offering before God. **5**Now send some men to Joppa and summon one Simon who is called Peter. **6**He is staying with another Simon, a tanner, who has a house by the sea.” **7**When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from his staff, **8**explained everything to them, and sent them to Joppa.

1. **How are Cornelius and Tabitha similar? Look for footnotes about the meaning of the name Tabitha or Dorcus. See Acts 9:36-38 and footnotes and Acts 10:1-8.**
2. **How does God prepare Peter for the inclusion of Gentiles into the Jewish-Christian community? See Acts 10:9-33.**

**The Vision of Peter.** **9**[The next day, while they were on their way and nearing the city, Peter went up to the roof terrace to pray at about noontime. **10**He was hungry and wished to eat, and while they were making preparations he fell into a trance. **11**He saw heaven opened and something resembling a large sheet coming down, lowered to the ground by its four corners. **12**In it were all the earth’s four-legged animals and reptiles and the birds of the sky. **13**A voice said to him, “Get up, Peter. Slaughter and eat.” **14**But Peter said, “Certainly not, sir. For never have I eaten anything profane and unclean.” **15**The voice spoke to him again, a second time, “What God has made clean, you are not to call profane.” **16**This happened three times, and then the object was taken up into the sky.

**17**While Peter was in doubt about the meaning of the vision he had seen, the men sent by Cornelius asked for Simon’s house and arrived at the entrance. **18**They called out inquiring whether Simon, who is called Peter, was staying there. **19**As Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said [to him], “There are three men here looking for you. **20**So get up, go downstairs, and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them.” **21**Then Peter went down to the men and said, “I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your being here?” **22**They answered, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, respected by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to summon you to his house and to hear what you have to say.” **23**So he invited them in and showed them hospitality.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went with him. **24**[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+10&version=NABRE" \l "fen-NABRE-31603i" \o "See footnote i)]On the following day he entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. **25**When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage. **26**Peter, however, raised him up, saying, “Get up. I myself am also a human being.” **27**While he conversed with him, he went in and found many people gathered together **28**and said to them, “You know that it is unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with, or visit, a Gentile, but God has shown me that I should not call any person profane or unclean. **29**And that is why I came without objection when sent for. May I ask, then, why you summoned me?”

**30**Cornelius replied, “Four days ago at this hour, three o’clock in the afternoon, I was at prayer in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling robes stood before me and said, **31**‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your almsgiving remembered before God. **32**Send therefore to Joppa and summon Simon, who is called Peter. He is a guest in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.’ **33**So I sent for you immediately, and you were kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to listen to all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

1. **What prompted Cornelius to be baptized? Who was it who baptized him? See Acts 10:44-49.**

**Acts 10:44-49 44**While Peter was still speaking these things, the holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. **45**The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, **46**for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, **47**“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the holy Spirit even as we have?” **48**He ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. **49**Then they invited him to stay for a few days.