



OPENING PRAYER

Father, open our eyes to see what you see, and our hearts to love what you love. May your Spirit dismantle every wall in us that you never built, and draw us to every table You have prepared. In Jesus name, Amen.

OPENING QUESTION^(OPTIONAL)

What is one food from another culture that you tried for the first time and you either absolutely loved it, or you absolutely didn't? What was the experience like?



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WORD

Acts 10:9–15 (ESV)

9 The next day... Peter went up on the housetop...

10 And he became hungry... and fell into a trance

11 and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending...

12 In it were all kinds of animals...

13 And there came a voice: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."

15 And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."

Acts 10:34–35, (ESV)

34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,

35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Acts 10:44–48 (ESV)

44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word...

47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ...

REFLECTION AND COMMENTARY

1. God interrupts us to realign our mission—not just deepen our spirituality. In Acts 10, Peter is simply going about his normal rhythm—he's praying, spending time with God. But in that moment, God interrupts him with a vision that challenges how he sees people.

This wasn't just a special spiritual experience for Peter. It was God redirecting his heart toward people he had never considered before. Even the detail of Peter being hungry matters—God often uses ordinary moments to prepare us for something bigger.

REFLECTION AND COMMENTARY

And the vision comes three times. Not because Peter is stubborn—but because what God is reshaping in him is important.

Sometimes God interrupts our routine not to add more to our spiritual life...

but to expand our perspective and our mission. And often, we don't fully understand what God is saying until we take a step forward in obedience.

2. God is already at work in people before we recognise it. Peter's response—"Surely not, Lord"—shows he's trying to stay faithful to what he's always believed. But God is helping him see something new.

When God says, "Do not call anything impure," He's revealing that He has already done a work—Peter just hasn't seen it yet. This moment isn't really about food. It's about people. It's about mission. It's about who belongs in God's family.

God often moves ahead of us. He is already working in people's lives, sometimes long before we ever notice or even feel comfortable with. In Jesus, holiness is no longer about staying separate from others, but about being connected to Him and joining in what He's already doing.

Are there people we struggle to fully accept or understand?

Could God already be working in their lives in ways that we haven't seen yet?

3. God moves beyond our expectations and invites us to trust Him. When Peter finally visits the Gentiles, something surprising happens. The Holy Spirit comes upon them in a powerful way, before Peter even finishes speaking. There's no structure, no process, just God moving freely. And the response shifts from hesitation to humility: "Who are we to stand in the way of what God is doing?"

God doesn't work within our limits or expectations. He doesn't base His movement on people's background, culture, or history. He responds to hearts that are open to Him.

Are there ways we might unintentionally limit what God can do? Are we open to Him working in unexpected people or places?

Sometimes what holds us back isn't resistance, but it's simply being too comfortable with what we already know.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Peter was praying on a rooftop when God spoke to him. Where do you tend to hear from God most clearly? What does your "rooftop" look like?
2. Where might God be nudging or interrupting your normal patterns? Is there a person or group you've never really considered reaching or connecting with?
3. The phrase "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean" was repeated three times. What do you think God is saying specifically to you, or to us as a church, through that repetition?
4. In first-century culture, sharing a meal meant sharing your world. Who are the people in your world that you've never quite made space for at your table — not out of hostility, but simply out of habit or comfort? What could be some tangible steps that you could take to draw them closer to your table?
5. Every Nation Brisbane is called to be a church that reflects the diversity of our city. What is one practical thing our Life Group could do this month to live that out, not as a program, but as a genuine act of love?

Gospel Invitation:

For those who are still on the journey toward Jesus, or who sense God calling them deeper, the table is already set. Peter's vision was really about this: God has made a way, through Jesus, for every person, regardless of background, culture, or history, to come home. If you've never surrendered your life to Jesus, tonight could be the night you stop saying "Surely not, Lord" and simply say yes. Salvation is as simple as turning from your own way and trusting in His.

Missional Activation:

Who is not at your "table" that should be? Here is a table challenge you may want to take on in the next few weeks: invite someone or a family who doesn't share your background, culture, or language to share a meal with you. Cook your food, let them bring theirs, and watch what God does.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You tore down every dividing wall and declared all people clean. Give us the courage to open our doors, welcome the outsider, and make room for those You're already drawing near. May our Life Group reflect Your radical welcome and become a true foretaste of Your eternal table. In Jesus' name, Amen.