

# WEEK 4 - Acts 10-13

## Canopy Guide // Fall Focus 2025: The Spirit Acts

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

*Use the questions below to kickstart a community building, all-play conversation that connects to our weekly topic. If your group meets for dinner, these might be great questions to share around a table.*

- Are you an easily inviting person? Tell about a time when you invited someone (don't limit this to church).
- What has been your experience with those who you wouldn't expect to see in a typical church?

### [VIDEO INTRO: WEEK 4](#)

### STUDY GUIDE

The section of Acts that we read this week has impacted the work of the Church since the moment it was first experienced by Peter. In Acts 10:9-16, while he is praying, Peter has a vision from God. In this vision, Peter is told that nothing that God has declared to be clean can be unclean. Peter goes to the house of a Gentile man named Cornelius and the purpose of the message from God became clear. Peter was to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit fell upon both the Jewish people and the Gentiles who heard Peter's message, inviting more people into the Christian life than was previously thought to be possible. In Acts 11:12, Peter says to the Jewish followers of Christ in Jerusalem, "The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us." Peter then states, "Who was I that I could hinder God?"

The Spirit invites more than just those whom we might expect into the Kingdom of God. Even today, the Spirit is moving and inviting people into the Kingdom who might be off the radar of those of us in the church. In fact, the Spirit is inviting even those whom we think have no business being invited into the Kingdom of God. To many of the Jewish Christians, the Gentiles had no business in their version of the Church, but the Spirit made it clear to Peter, what God has made clean, can not be deemed unclean. The Spirit is moving, inviting, and reshaping how we think about the Church, ever expanding the Kingdom of God, even to those whom we might consider to be unclean, unworthy, or

undeserving, and inviting them into the mercy of Christ. There is no distinction between those who are invited in after living lives even society might consider “unclean” and those who have been born and raised in the Church. All are welcome into the Kingdom of God. Who are we to think that we could hinder God?

### **Scripture to Read: Acts 10-13**

*This semester we’re challenging our canopies to read the book of Acts in total. This study will be the most meaningful if you read the chapters you’ll discuss ahead of time individually AND if you read the week’s chapters during your group meeting time aloud together. You can read individually all in one setting or parse it out through your week. The Bible app has a great audio version of the Bible you can use as well.*

### **General Discussion Questions:**

What’s something in this week’s reading you have questions about?

What is something in this week’s reading that makes you think about your own life of faith?

### **Deeper Discussion Questions**

1. In chapter 10, Peter and Cornelius both receive important messages from God. They received the messages in different forms, and both knew the messages were of God and obeyed them accordingly. How does God speak to you? Do you have an experience of God sending you a message or instruction? How did you or would you respond?
2. Historically, the word Christian identifies people as followers of a particular leader (in this case, Jesus Christ). Do you think our culture today uses the term in that same way?
3. Do you feel the Church is doing a good job at including and inviting people into the Kingdom of God who are “off the radar of those of us in the church?”

## **PRAYER**

Pray for the Church and the people around it. Take time to pray that you can see, hear, and understand what the Spirit is saying to you and where it is sending you.

## **EXTRA RESOURCES/ARTICLES/RESEARCH**

1. [Why Don't We Follow All of the Old Testament Laws](#)
  - a. This short article discusses why some OT laws are still followed and used in discussion/arguments and why others are tossed out. It is short and offers a

helpful framework for thought.

An additional document full of resources that will benefit deeper study through the book of Acts and the Holy Spirit can be found here:

<https://grandviewchristian.org/fallfocus2025/>