

The Week

week starting 23 2 20

126

Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life

Welcome

What is the most unusual thing you have ever eaten?

Worship

- **Read Psalm 24** slowly as an act of worship, pausing between sections, and giving everyone time to absorb the words.
- Comment on any verses that inspire or puzzle you.

Word

Read Acts 10: 1 - 8

- Why did God speak to Cornelius of all people?
- Why might some Jews have supposed that God would NOT speak to him?

Read Acts 10: 9 - 16

Meanwhile in Joppa...

- What was Peter doing when a vision came to him?
- Why had he resist the message of the heavenly voice (verses 13 & 14)? (You could refer to Leviticus chapter 11.)
- How did God emphasise the message to Peter?

Read Acts 10: 17 - 23a

- Have you got any examples of God arranging things in your life while you are still wondering what's going on?

Read Acts 10: 23b - 29

- What mistake does Cornelius make? Hy does he make it, do you think?
- Comment on Peter's manner as he responds to the gathering of Gentiles. At that point in the story, how would Peter have regarded his own words and actions in socialising with these unclean Gentiles?

Read Acts 10: 30 - 33

- Describe Cornelius' attitude?
- How would Peter have felt at the invitation implied by verse 33?

Read Acts 10: 34 - 43

- What is Peter beginning to learn in verses 34 - 35?
- What are the key points in Peter's summary of the gospel?

Read Acts 10: 44 - 48

- How does God confirm Peter's message?
- How did the Gentiles experience the Holy Spirit?

Speaking in tongues was often a way of allowing the mouth to free-wheel in an emotional response to the thrill of feeling God's love poured out by the Holy Spirit in a person's heart. Occasionally it seems an actual message is spoken in a foreign language which can be interpreted and understood. See Acts 12: 30 - Acts 13:1 to notice what is the most excellent way of responding to God's Spirit.

- After God has included these non-Jews, what followed next?

Response

- Are we excluding any groups of people from our church life?
- What can we do to offer the gospel a a wider group of people?