



Thinking & talking through the biblical text during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Here are some questions to get you started.

### Reflection Questions

What questions and comments do you have about the sermon and supporting texts?

#### Read **Acts 11**

- Why were the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem upset at Peter?
- Then why was hearing “that the Gentiles had also received the word of God” even news to them (8:4; 11:19)?
- Why would they do that and why weren't they happy to hear that the Gentiles had also received the word of God?
- What seemed to be the final and most convincing proof to Peter of God's working in the Gentiles (vv15-17)? Why?
- Why do you think, Luke retells the story of Peter, Cornelius and the Holy Spirit?

Background: Antioch: had a large Jewish population, including those from Cyprus & Cyrene (North Africa); Greek world (Hellenist) world; 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in the Roman world after Rome & Alexandria (~1/2 million); temple prostitution, other pagan abominations related to various Roman, Greek & other idols. Christians were invading Satan's stronghold as Jesus had commanded.

- Should Christians continue to do this today? If so, how?
- Why do you think the church sent Barnabas & not Peter to Antioch?
- What did he see? What did he encourage the new church to do?
- Why did Barnabas go up to Tarsus to get Saul?
- In v28f Agabus gives a prophetic word. How do people respond?

#### Thinking a little deeper

- What can we learn from the way Peter responded to his critics?
- How does our care for new believers compare and contrast to the care given here?
- How do you see the meaning of “Christian” being more fully discovered and lived out in a multicultural church?

Ask God to help you be more open and flexible to the changes that he desires to bring about in your life.