

Weekly Study Guide

The week of September 11, 2016

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Break Through to Life

Things I'd like to remember about today's message...

Daily Readings

MONDAY

John 1:1-18

TUESDAY

John 1:19-28

WEDNESDAY

John 1:29-42

THURSDAY

John 1:43-51

FRIDAY

John 2:1-12

SATURDAY

John 2:13-25

Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. You can use this guide to help you read through the Bible for yourself.

Growth Group Discussion

THIS WEEK'S LEARNING GOAL

The state fair is over. Schools are in session again. The weather has even begun to change. What are you looking forward to this fall season? What will you miss about summer?

LEARN AND APPLY

In this series we are going to learn the story of Peter and Cornelius; a story that shows us how God breaks through and gives people life. Let's start by reading the basic story so we'll know where we're going. Read Acts 10:1-48 out loud in your group. You could have one person read the whole story or take turns. Don't worry if some of the details are a little confusing; we'll dig in more closely in the coming weeks.

- Try retelling the story as a group in your own words. Use the following questions as a guide: How does the story start? Who are the main characters? What happens that brings them together? What are the problems they face? What happens to solve those problems? What do Peter and Cornelius learn?
- What questions does this story raise for you? Hold onto these questions; they may be learning opportunities for you in the coming weeks.

Think about the character of Cornelius a little more closely.

- Cornelius is pretty "successful." What is his job?
- What kind of reputation does Cornelius have outside of his work?
- In spite of his successes, Cornelius is still missing something. God has more to offer him. Why do you think success is not always satisfying?
- Cornelius is a seeker for God. But he's also a commander of Roman soldiers and undoubtedly feels far from God. In your own perspective or words, why do we feel empty when we feel far from God?

God prompted Cornelius to take a next step. He was supposed to talk to Simon Peter who was staying in a nearby town called Joppa. It sounds like an unusual step, but Peter was a follower of Jesus, and learning to know God from those who know him already is actually a pretty reasonable idea.

- Do you sense that God might be prompting you to take a next step that would help you break through or grow in life with Jesus? What is it? Can you share it with your group?

PRAY

Here are two prayer suggestions for this week:

1. Pray for the needs of your lives and loved ones.
2. Pray these words, "Lead me, Spirit of Jesus. And teach me to follow."