

ACTS 11:1-18

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

⁴ Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was.

⁶ I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. ⁷ Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’

⁸ “I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

⁹ “The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹ “Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹² The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house.

¹³ He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’

¹⁵ “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

¹⁸ When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

| What is a significant dream that you remembered when you woke up?

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| What complaint did the believers with a Jewish heritage bring against Peter?

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| What convincing evidence did he offer them to support his decision to welcome
| the Gentiles to the faith? How did they respond?

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| What additional information did Peter provide concerning the angels message to
+ Cornelius in verse 14?

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| What does this passage teach us about holding on to our religious traditions
| and preferences? What does it teach us about reaching people who are different
| than us?

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| Have you ever been compelled out of your comfort zone to minister to someone
| different than you? Share your experience.

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DAILY READINGS

1. NUMBERS 22:21-35
2. MATTHEW 8:5-13
3. JOHN 10:1-21
4. ROMANS 3:9-31
5. GALATIANS 3:15-29
6. EPHESIANS 4:11-16
7. ACTS 11:1-18