

12 UNITED IN CHRIST

KEY TEXT: ACTS 10:34-48

CENTRAL truth

This week, we will learn about the transformative experience that Peter and a group of Jewish believers had in the home of a Gentile named Cornelius. The Lord made it abundantly clear that those who repent and trust Jesus are saved. God's family is comprised of those who are saved, and **He does not show favoritism within His family.**

key question

How is the gospel message both exclusive and inclusive? Why is this important?

The exclusive claim of the gospel is that Jesus is Lord, and we can only find salvation through Him. The gospel is also inclusive, meaning that all who repent and trust Jesus are welcomed into His family. Today's world frequently teaches us that all faiths are different paths to the same truth. However, the Bible teaches us that Jesus is the only way, and all people are invited to respond in faith.

keep in mind

- The Gentile believers were baptized as a symbolic response to their new faith and their inclusion into Jesus's community. Without calling anyone out, encourage students to prayerfully consider being baptized if they have not already been. Make yourself available for further discussion if necessary.
- In many ways, the interaction between Peter and Cornelius would have been considered controversial in their day. Encourage students to think about how the Lord may want to extend kindness and mercy through them, even in ways that are seen as controversial by others.

application

What does it look like for us to reject favoritism?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should see the importance of treating other believers as fellow siblings within God's family. By faith, we are all united under King Jesus. Our distinctions should not be the basis for how we treat one another.

FOR THE LEADER: Leaders and students should both learn to see favoritism as the sin that it truly is. Highlight the fact that those who belong to Jesus are children within God's family. Grasping our identity enables us to champion unity in the world around us.

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