

VISION

reaching people with Jesus.

Acts 10:1-43 – Go Big For The Gospel

November 14, 2021

1. **We are 4 the 1 who is lost.**
2. **We embrace change to reach people with Jesus.**
3. **We love our neighbors to better reach our neighbors.**
4. **We go big for the gospel.**
7. **We ask big things from people, because we expect big things from God.**

What can we learn about reaching people with Jesus from the growth of the church in Acts?

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Matthew 16:19 (ESV)

Let no man, no Jew, eat of the bread of the Cushite, the Samaritans, for he who eats of their bread is as if he was eating the swine's flesh. - Rabbis

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. Acts 8:4-6 (ESV)

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:14-17 (ESV)

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, Acts 10:1 (ESV)

1. **God chooses who will receive the gospel.**

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. Acts 13:48 (ESV)

...a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. Acts 10:2 (ESV)

2. Good people are not saved people.

3. God show mercy to searching hearts.

About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." Acts 10:3 (ESV)

4. God prepares hearts to hear the gospel.

And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Acts 10:4 (ESV)

"And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. Acts 10:5–8 (ESV)

5. God shares the life-changing gospel through us.

The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. Acts 10:9 (ESV)

6. Just as God chooses who will receive the gospel, he chooses who will share the gospel.

And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven. Acts 10:10–16 (ESV)

7. Jesus wants us to give up cultural distinctives that keep us from sharing the gospel message with people who need to hear.

Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. Acts 10:17–18 (ESV)

8. God orders events in our life to steer us where we should go and direct us to people we need meet.

And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them." And Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?" And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." So he invited them in to be his guests. The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. Acts 10:19–23 (ESV)

And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man." Acts 10:24–26 (ESV)

9. God uses ordinary people to tell others about Jesus.

And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me." Acts 10:27–29 (ESV)

And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord." Acts 10:30–33 (ESV)

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Acts 10:34–38 (ESV)

10. Sharing the gospel begins with a simple presentation on the facts of Jesus’ life.

And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. Acts 10:39–41 (ESV)

11. Sharing the gospel includes the significance of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” Acts 10:42–43 (ESV)

12. Sharing the gospel includes the future of Jesus as our judge and an invitation for him to be your savior.

Life Group Questions

1. Review the message. What was new that you didn’t know?
2. Today we talked about asking big things from people because we expect big things from God. Is there a time in your life when you went big for the gospel and God showed up in a way you didn’t expect?
3. In Acts 10:21-23, we see Peter and Cornelius obeying God’s commands. What is the relationship between genuine belief in Christ and obedience to Christ? See James 2:19-20, John 14:15, John 14:23, Matthew 7:21? How does this relate for cheap forgiveness?
4. We learned 12 lessons on sharing the gospel from Acts 10:1-43. Which lessons are most important for you to remember?
5. Points 10 to 12 show how to share a simple gospel presentation. Practice sharing a simple gospel presentation with friends in your Life Group using points 9 to 11 as your guide (Acts 10:34-43). What details do you find hard to remember? What might be the danger of omitting details found in these verses?