



SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
MESSAGE TITLE: "HOW COULD YOU!?"

SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER
DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): *Acts 11:1-18*

After Peter's encounter with Cornelius and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Gentiles, the Jewish believers have some serious questions. At first, they were skeptical of what Peter has done. They question him. He doesn't get defensive. He just tells them about what God has done. Through hearing his story and the way that God has been working, their doubts are silenced. Pastor Alex demonstrates that this passage can serve as a model for us today in seeking to understand what God is doing in the lives of others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Would you describe yourself as an early adopter or more change averse? Why?
2. Have you ever changed your views on someone after hearing their story? What happened?
3. What is the most surprising thing that happened this week, in your opinion?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. What was the first reaction that the other believers had to Peter going to Cornelius' house?
2. How does Peter defend his actions in verses 4-17?
3. Compare Peter's retelling of what happened in this chapter to the events as they are laid out in chapter 10. What new information do you learn from Peter's retelling?
4. What saying of Jesus does Peter reference in this passage? How does this passage relate to what happened?
5. How did the believers respond after Peter shared what had happened?

cont.

CONTINUED:

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. What examples can you think of today of Christians being cautious or critical of major changes in a ministry?
2. Do you think it was right of the believers in Judea to be cautious or critical of what Peter had done? Why or why not?
3. As Peter related what happened with Cornelius, it was impossible to deny that God was doing something new. What are some similarly new things that God is doing today? How have you seen God make it obvious that he is up to something?
4. Jesus had prepared the disciples for what was to come through his teaching and his actions while he was on earth. What are other examples of how Jesus prepared his disciples for what was to come? How have you seen Jesus prepare people for new things today?
5. How have you seen people in the church and/or the world go from thinking critically about something or being skeptical about it to embracing it? What kinds of things can help a person change from cautious to completely on board?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. What changes have you been cautious towards or critical of in the past? Have you ever been proved wrong or changed your mind? What happened?
2. Have you ever been proved right when you've been cautious or critical of a change? What would it look like in your life to walk the balance of being open to new things that God is doing while seeking to stay true to the Gospel?
3. What are some "new" things that you've seen God do in your life? How has he shown you that he's working in your life?
4. How has God prepared you for new things he was going to do?
5. Have you ever experienced a shift from being skeptical of something to embracing it? What caused your change of heart? How does this experience help you to relate to those who are skeptical of a change or something outside of their normal experience?

CONTINUED:

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What changes are you currently cautious or critical of? What can you do this week to be open minded to change while still seeking God's will in everything? How can your group support you in this process?
2. How might God be preparing you for something new right now? Ask your group members to see new things God is doing in you that you might miss.
3. What might you need to change in your manner or attitude to help you be more patient with those who are cautious/skeptical of change? How can your group support you in that journey?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the Adult Discipleship Team for this week's notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.

