

Water of Life Community Church  
BIBLICAL RECONCILIATION  
WEEK 1  
ACTS 11:1-18

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## ICEBREAKER

## PRAYER

## WORSHIP

## INTRODUCTION

Racial prejudice is nothing new, it was even present in the early days of the church. We will see in this study how believers had to face their own prejudices when God worked among those they despised. Our study will help us come to understand that our God is a God who celebrates diversity, and His salvation is for everyone. It will call each of us to action as we are reminded that we all play a part in breaking the chain of sin that has been handed down from generation to generation.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1. READ ACTS 11:1-3

- a. Why did the apostles and brothers assume it was wrong for Peter to eat with the Gentiles?
- b. Look up Matthew 15:1-20. In what ways do the Pharisees' objections to Jesus' teaching mirror the apostles' reaction to Peter's association with the Gentiles in Acts 11?
- c. In both of these passages, meals were shared. What does sharing a meal with someone communicate about the nature of your relationship?
- d. In what ways do the groups within both passages focus on externals rather than internals—what's on the inside?
- e. Why is it easy to let differences divide us? Why does the fact that it's easy not excuse it from being wrong?
- f. How is the God of the Bible a God of diversity? Give examples.

### 2. READ ACTS 11:4-16.

- a. As Peter defended his actions, what information did he share? What captures your attention in Peter's explanation?
- b. What did Peter's vision mean (see Acts 10:9-16)?
- c. Can you think of a modern-day parallel to the Jewish food restrictions?

### 3. READ ACTS 11:17-18.

- a. What is the message of verse 17? How does verse 17 call for humility on behalf of the believer?
  - b. What is significant that those who had objected to Peter “quieted down” and “glorified God” (v. 18)? How are these two actions often interrelated? How does this idea relate to the issue of racial reconciliation?
  - c. How did Peter’s step of sharing the gospel to non-Jews affect the history of Christianity?
  - d. What are the implications of that truth toward seeking reconciliation between different groups?
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## PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

What are some ways you can celebrate both your differences and your commonalities with others?

How can you know when it's right to "quiet down" in order to glorify God, and when it's time to speak up to glorify God?

How can you help bring about racial reconciliation in your place of work, family, or church this week?

How might it change things if we saw racial situations and problems not just as political issues but as ministry opportunities?

Humble yourself before God. Confess to Him any prejudice you may be holding in your heart. Repent for any prejudice or wrong thoughts you have about others. Ask God for the eyes to see people as He sees them. Ask Him to make you a channel of His love and acceptance to people of every race.

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## GOING DEEPER / WEEKLY CHALLENGE

### REFLECT

- Read John 17:21-23

### RESPOND

- Commit to God and a trusted friend how you will help unify the body of Christ in love and seek peace.

*Also ... subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting “eDevotional” to 67076; or go to [wolgroups.com](http://wolgroups.com) and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week’s theme.*

## MEMORY VERSE

James 2:1 New Living Translation (NLT)

"My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?"