

Discovery Group - Gospel Living

(7) Household Missions

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Acts 10:1-33

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- How did God use Cornelius' home as a mission center?
- How might your home be used more for a center of mission? What adjustments in your lifestyle would you have to make in order for that to happen?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Spend time asking the Lord and journaling about how your home could be useful in His work. Evaluate how your home is being used now. What practical steps could you take to transform your home into a center for gospel work?

Household Missions

This passage tells of the monumental events that lead to Gentiles first believing the Gospel, receiving the Holy Spirit, and being baptized. Needless to say, there is a lot going on. Although not the primary point, the idea of the household seems to have some interest for Luke as he writes this account. First, the Bible describes Cornelius “and all his family” as being devout. Then, Luke emphasizes that Peter actually entered Cornelius’ home, even though it was against the law for him to do so. Finally, when Peter arrived to tell him about Jesus, Cornelius had gathered “his relatives and close friends,” creating a “large gathering of people.” In Acts 11, Peter tells the leaders of the church that an angel had appeared to Cornelius, promising that Peter would give him a message through which *all his household* would be saved.

When the Spirit first drew Romans to Jesus, it was not one at a time, or even as a group of unconnected individuals. They came as a household; as relatives and good friends - all believing together. Luke gives us similar pictures in Acts 16 (the Philippian jailer) and Acts 18 (Crispus, the synagogue ruler). In Acts 20, Pauls reminds the Ephesian elders how he had taught them both publicly and *from house to house*. Furthermore, as we read the epistles, it is clear that households were central to the strategy of proclaiming the gospel and making disciples. Paul frequently greets so-and-so *and the church that meets in their house*.

In the first century, it is clear that homes were significant mission centers. They were strategic for many reasons. For one, they represented webs of relationships through which the gospel could easily travel. It was also in homes that the gospel was most clearly demonstrated through the uniquely powerful and godly lives of believers. (See Eph 5:21-6:9, Col 3:18-4:1, 1 Pet 2:18-3:7). Furthermore, homes were places where hospitality could be offered and people could experience the welcome and acceptance of the Father. Homes were also uniquely advantageous in demonstrating the reality of the church as true family.

Over the centuries, as the church has become more institutionalized and its work more program-based, houses have played a smaller role in the spread of the gospel and the making of disciples. However, God has provided us with homes as unique and powerful gifts with which we can do His work.