



DELTA
GROUPS
September 6th
"Gut Check"
"Equal"

Big Idea: "God does not show Favoritism."

Open it: When they chose teams when you were in school were you the first chosen, middle of the pack or last pick? Other than picking teams, when have you felt "out?"

The first Christians in the book of Acts usually get glowing reviews from Christians today. We many times teach and remark how we wish we could be more like those first Christians. They were amazing in many ways but there is one glaring weakness that needs to be confronted. Jesus taught that His Kingdom was for everyone, Jew and Gentile. The problem was his disciples did not leave their home. They purposely stayed away from the Gentiles upholding their former teaching and ignoring the call of Christ. In order to move the disciples out God intervened. The story in Acts 10 is a story that reveals God's desire and might reveal some of our own prejudices.

Dig it: Read Acts 10

1. If Jesus called the apostles to reach the world, why was Peter so reluctant to teach the Gentiles? What does that say about the power of his heritage?
2. In verse 16 it says that God repeated the scene three times, why is that significant?
3. What similarities are there with the coming of the Spirit in Acts 2 and the subsequent sermon and response on Pentecost to Acts 10:44-48. What is God doing here?
4. We can all see that Cornelius was converted that day. In what way was this event a conversion for Peter?

Reflect on it:

1. Is there any group of people you might tend to avoid, or ignore? How does our culture promote that?
2. What are some conclusions you have reached about those you avoid?
3. Comment on the following statement: "Why can't we reach people who are like us? We will let other Christians whom are more like "them" reach "them?"
4. This week in our Lesson we wrote down a progression of the Heart.
Hatred Avoidance Tolerance Intentional Inclusion
Where are you in your heart progression? What are some of the challenges of going that last step of "Intentional Inclusion?"
5. What are some "next steps" for you in developing a heart for those that God loves?

Do it:

1. PRAY for our Hearts to grow in humility and understanding for those who we do not like or understand.

