

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Acts 10:19-33

Sunday, August 27, 2017

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What kind of influence did Cornelius have over others? Why might this influence have been important in this situation?

He was a centurion in command of 100 soldiers. He was able to influence his family and friends to come into a home that was large enough for them to listen to Peter tell them about God and the good news of Jesus Christ. He could send for Peter quickly by using the men under his command. He could get a good number of people to hear Peter, who would then believe in Jesus, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and be baptized. These family members and friends would then tell others all that happened and the church would grow quickly, enabling Peter to teach more and more people before he returned to Jerusalem to make his report.

2. What reason did the angel give for coming to Cornelius?

God heard his prayer and remembered his gifts to the poor, which he probably gave through the synagogue, if not also directly (Acts 10:31).

3. When did Cornelius send for Peter?

Immediately after his meeting with the angel. He had learned to obey higher authorities immediately.

4. Why did Peter go with the three men to see Cornelius?

He had a vision and the Holy Spirit told him not to be afraid to go with them.

5. What reason did Peter give for going into the house of Cornelius? Was this a good reason in your opinion? Give a reason for your opinion.

He had a vision that convinced him that he should not call anyone impure or unclean (Acts 10:28). That was a good reason, because he also learned that God does not show favoritism, but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right (Acts 10:34-35).

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