

## Nov 12/23 –Small Group Leaders' Guide

### Read Acts 10

1. In the sermon, Orvin posed this opening question: is it easier to include people who are different or to exclude them? What is your answer to this question and why?

*An icebreaker question to warm people up to the conversation. Allow space and time for people to share and explain themselves.*

2. British historian Tom Holland posits that our present globalized world, enriched with liberal democratic ideals, is a byproduct of Christian influence through millennia. What do you think about Holland's argument that the global majority today, including everyone in Toronto, is "ethically Christian"?

*Again, allow people to chime in to Holland's controversial argument.*

3. God is keenly interested in completely eroding away each of our own prejudice. What are the ways you think God is doing this in your life and in the community life of our church?

*One of the ways God erodes away our prejudice is to bring people who are different, difficult, and disagreeable into our lives and space. In that way, we learn in real time and real terms the hard work of tolerating, welcoming, understanding, and loving these people without any condition, just as we have been treated by God in Jesus when we were yet sinners and rebels against His good and perfect will and yet He made space for us in creation and in His own heart.*

4. Prejudice hates complexity and loves to overprocess people into very simplistic labels and parts. But prejudice is threatened once we learn a person's name, see them face to face, discover their story, their life, and their character. How can we foster an environment where our own prejudice is threatened and our welcome and embrace of different people becomes our impulse?

*We can be a community that invites dialogue from different perspectives (not just perspectives that we agree with), that takes time to walk with difficult and disagreeable people (not just ignore them or push them away), that listens from other perspectives, and hosts people into our church and homes whether they stay with us or not.*