

Aug 23, 2026 – Leaders' Guide
Acts 10: Are You Being Converted?

Acts 10 is often remembered as the story of Cornelius' conversion, yet Luke's focus is just as much on Peter's conversion. Through a series of encounters, visions, conversations, and acts of obedience, God dismantles Peter's deeply held assumptions about who belongs in God's kingdom. IN this we discover that conversion is not merely a single moment of coming to faith; it is the lifelong work of the Holy Spirit, transforming our hearts, our imaginations, our relationships, and our lives until we increasingly reflect Christ.

Read Acts 10:1–48

1. As you read Acts 10, whose conversion stands out most to you—Cornelius' or Peter's? Why do you think Luke spends so much time telling Peter's story?

Encourage people to notice the structure of the chapter. Cornelius comes to faith, but Luke devotes remarkable attention to Peter's vision, hesitation, journey, and changing understanding. The point is not to diminish Cornelius' conversion but to recognize that God is transforming both men. Throughout Acts, the gospel advances because God continually converts his own people to see more clearly what he is doing.

2. What barriers existed between Peter and Cornelius? Which of those barriers were cultural, which were religious, and which were personal?

Invite the group to identify the many layers of division: Jew and Gentile, clean and unclean, occupied and occupier, Roman soldier and Jewish subject, insider and outsider. Discuss how these barriers had become so normal that Peter simply assumed they reflected God's will. Consider how easily our own assumptions can become confused with God's purposes.

3. Peter says, "God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean." What had to change inside Peter before he could take those few steps into Cornelius' home? What impact would his words (vs. 28) have on his listeners?

The sermon highlighted that Peter's conversion happened gradually. Jesus had already been shaping him through years of following him, through encounters like the Canaanite woman, and even through staying with Simon the tanner. The vision did not create a new Peter overnight; it revealed what

God had been patiently doing all along. Ask participants where they have experienced slow, patient growth in their own lives.

4. Peter obeyed before he fully understood what God was doing. Why is that often difficult? Can you think of a time when obedience came before understanding?

Peter admits that he doesn't yet know why he has been summoned (Acts 10:29), yet he goes anyway. Faith often means taking the next faithful step without seeing the whole picture. Encourage people to reflect on moments when God became clearer only after they had acted in trust.

5. The sermon suggested that conversion continues throughout the Christian life. In what ways do we sometimes think of conversion as a one-time event rather than an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit?

This is an important transition from understanding the text to applying it. Peter was already a devoted follower of Jesus, yet there were still areas of his imagination, theology, attitudes, and relationships that needed transformation. Discuss what it looks like to remain teachable rather than assuming we've "arrived."

6. The sermon suggested that every generation develops its own categories of "clean" and "unclean." Without naming particular political groups or debating current issues, where do you see people today instinctively dividing the world into "us" and "them"?

Encourage humility rather than accusation. The goal is not to identify the failures of others but to recognize how easily every human heart draws boundaries that Jesus intends to cross. Help the group keep the focus on Christ's invitation to love, hospitality, and faithful witness.

7. The sermon ends with the question, "Are you being converted?" As you reflect on your own life, where might the Holy Spirit be inviting you to take your next step of conversion?

Allow time for quiet reflection before discussion. Participants may speak about prejudices, fears, forgiveness, generosity, pride, trust, relationships, vocation, or obedience. Finish by reminding the group that conversion is fundamentally God's work. Our hope rests in the promise that "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

Some things to consider as you pray together

- Thank God that his grace reached us when we were far from him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to continue the work of conversion in every area of our lives.
- Pray for humility to recognize attitudes, assumptions, or prejudices that still need to be surrendered to Christ.
- Ask God for courage to obey even when we do not yet understand what he is doing.
- Pray that our church would become a community that reflects the welcome, compassion, and reconciling love of Jesus.
- Pray for opportunities this week to cross a barrier in love and faithfully bear witness to Christ.