

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

This series from Acts 9-15 tells the story of Jesus' first disciples learning that the gospel is for all. It cannot be limited by race, by tradition, or even by persecution. It calls the church in every generation to embrace the unlimited mission of God.

- 1 Acts 10 is the account of two conversions. The conversion of Cornelius emphasizes that salvation is not the result of man's goodness, but it issues from the goodness of God expressed in Christ Jesus. The conversion of Peter emphasizes the need to grow into a greater realization of the unlimited reach of the gospel. Acts 11 is the account of a third conversion the conversion of a church. Read Acts 11:1-3. Why did the actions of Peter upset the church in Jerusalem? How did Peter respond to this criticism and why is that significant?
- 2 The church in Jerusalem needed further conversion to understand that **true** *discipleship* means **unlimited** *fellowship*. What did Rick mean by "the cross has a horizontal as well as a vertical dimension"?
- 3 The Cornelius controversy was not about salvation; it was about reconciliation. What is the difference between the two, and why does it matter?
- **Read Ephesians 2:14-16.** Reflect on this statement Rick made, "God does not want a colorblind church; He wants a colorful church." Do you agree with that statement, and what are its implications if you do?

- **5 Read Acts 11:19-26.** The church in Antioch modeled the truth that people are *won to Christ* when disciples are *one in Christ*. Why is this statement true and significant **(read John 17:23)**? How should it impact our daily interaction with other people?
- **6 CHALLENGE #1: Listen to** *someone else's story.* Why is it important to listen to someone else's story? Whose story do you need to hear?
- **CHALLENGE #2: Lead with grace instead of judgment.** How does Barnabas model the right way to build better race relations? What needs to change in your heart to "be a Barnabas"?
- 8 CHALLENGE #3: Look for ways to make a statement. Sometimes it involves words; sometimes it involves actions; almost always it involves risk and sacrifice. Reconciliation requires more than not doing the wrong thing. It means there will be times when we "make a statement." What kind of words and actions are most needed and helpful in making a statement today that uses our influence to dismantle injustice?