# Advancing The Gospel Together

**DISCUSSION GUIDE** 

# DISCUSSION GOAL



To discuss how God is active in reaching the world. And to discuss our role in reaching the world, recognizing that it is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit.

## ICE BREAKER

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If you could take a two week vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

### TEXT

## (UP)

Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

#### Acts 11:1-18

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, <sup>3</sup> "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." <sup>4</sup> But Peter began and explained it to them in order: <sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. <sup>6</sup> Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup> But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup> But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. <sup>11</sup> And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea.

#### (Turn to Acts 11 in an ESV bible to continue reading verses 12-18)

(UP)

## **MESSAGE OUTLINE**

This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

**Big Idea:** God is active in helping reach the world! **Key Question:** What does God give to reach the world?

- 1. God gives vision to reach the world (vv. 1-10)
- 2. God sends people to reach the world (vv. 11-14)
- 3. God uses the Holy Spirit to reach the world (vv. 15-18)

#### **REACH WEEK 1**



## DISCUSSION



- Acts 11:1-10 paints a picture of religious assumptions hindering the spread of the Gospel. In what ways have you seen culture, traditions, and even legalism stand in the way of the Gospel?
- Peter's vision in Acts 11 propelled him and the apostles forward in taking the good news of Jesus to the entire world (vv.1-10). Read Revelation 7:9. What does this passages teach us about God's plan to reach the world?
- In Acts 11:11-14, we see that God sends His people to reach the world with the Gospel. Where has God placed you in life that he has intentionally sent you for this purpose? It could be your work, neighborhood, school, a specific people group, etc.
- Though God sends us to reach the world, it is still ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:15-18). How does this give us confidence in our sharing of the Gospel?
- Seeing God at work in reaching the world is an amazing thing. Why is it so important for us to witness His activity? What are potential false beliefs we can fall into if we don't spend time seeing where God is working?

## LIFE APPLICATION



Spend some time reflecting on who needs to be reached in your spheres of influence. Share their name(s) and dedicate this week in prayer that God will soften their heart to the truth of the Gospel. Consider inviting them to coffee or a meal to continue to build relationship and seek opportunities to share the Gospel.

Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS





