

# K.E.Y. Bible Study

**Description:** K.E.Y. Bible Study introduces the essential biblical narratives, concepts, and themes, and teaches the student how to apply the message of the Bible to daily living. Each teaching session is self-contained, which allows participants to join in the study at any time during the five years.

**Purpose:** To teach the most significant events, passages, and doctrines of the Bible in a manner and using methods which encourages and empowers the student to:

- Keep the faith that we have received
- Be **E**quipped to serve the Body of Christ
- Become **Y**oked, or connect, with others for the purpose of ministry

## God's Audio Visuals Acts 10:1-11:18 November 11, 2015

Some of the most significant events in history did not appear to be that significant when they occurred. As a result, people are unaware of these events even though they experience the results of their occurrences. Very few realize the significance of February 15, 1946; yet, this event impacts every person in this room. This was the day that ENIAC was introduced to the world. ENIAC is the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer developed by two University of Pennsylvania professors, John Mauchly and J. Presper Eckert. It filled a 20-foot by 40-foot room, had 18,000 vacuum tubes, and is considered the grandfather of digital computers. It is difficult to imagine our world without computers. The handout, the images projected on the screen, the clock in the back wall, and the Bibles on the phone or other electronic device many of you are using to do this study were either produced by computers or are forms of computers. While we may not be aware of the events of the February 15, 1946, we do know about the consequences.

The events described in this biblical narrative changed the lives of untold millions of people, the course of history, and the lives of those doing the study. The biblical event we examine in this session impacted many more people than just the characters in the story. This event even changed our lives.

### When

These events occurred approximately ten years after the resurrection and sometime within a five-year window from 37 A.D. - 42 A.D.

### Where

The action occurs in Joppa and Caesarea, which were coastal cities. Communities located near the coast are often more culturally and religiously pluralistic. This fact is a factor in the narrative of Acts 10 and Acts 11.

### What Happened

#### Acts 10:1-8

- **Cornelius had a vision in the middle of the afternoon.** Cornelius was a Roman military officer (non-commissioned), and his title tells us that he would have had a minimum of 100 soldiers under his authority. Centurions were chosen more because of their character and loyalty than because of their skills in military strategy. He was described as a God-fearer, a term describing Gentiles who believed in the Jewish God, and worshipped at the synagogue. It is unlikely that he had

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experienced ritual circumcision or proselyte baptism. He helped those in need and prayed regularly, which meant he was very devout and observed the Jewish prayer hours. Benevolence and observing prayer hours were considered two of the most important Jewish virtues.

- **In the vision, he heard God call his name and instruct him to send men to Joppa to bring back Peter.** Immediately after the vision, he told two of his servants and a soldier about the vision. This is consistent with Luke always describing witnesses of the events. While these three were not witnesses of the vision, they were told quickly so they could verify that his story did not change.

## Acts 10:9-23a

- **In Joppa, Peter had a vision also.** In his vision, the heavens opened and a great sheet holding many animals moved toward the earth. A voice told Peter to kill and eat the animals. Peter strongly objected because some of the animals were considered unclean by Jews. The voice then told Peter, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." The vision was repeated three times. To a person brought up in the tradition of the Pharisees, a voice telling him to disregard the past teaching concerning the clean and unclean animals sounded like heretical instruction.
- **The messengers arrived from Cornelius and explained that a holy angel told Cornelius to bring Peter back to Caesarea.**

## Acts 10:23b-48

- **Peter, along with believers from Joppa, went to Cornelius' house in Caesarea.** Jews voluntarily traveling with Roman soldiers was very unusual. There was great distrust between the Jews and the Roman military. The reason for the Roman military presence in Caesarea was because of the intense dislike the Jews had for the Roman Empire.
- **Upon arrival, Peter and his entourage find that Cornelius' family was gathered in one place as if Peter was an honored guest.** Cornelius attempted to worship Peter, but Peter told him that he was only a man. Peter and Cornelius shared the stories of their visions. Peter told the story of Jesus. The Christian invitation was the conclusion of Peter's message: All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name (v. 43).
- **The Holy Spirit came on Cornelius and his family.** This was very similar to what occurred on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem.
- **The Jewish Christians were surprised that the gift of the Holy Spirit came on the Gentiles.** In their minds, the kingdom of God was two-tiered. They thought Jewish Christians had more privileges than Gentile Christians.
- **Peter asked the Jewish Christians what they thought about baptizing Gentile Christians.** While everyone was willing for them to believe, he was not sure everyone was ready to accept them into the community of faith. Baptism was (and is) the visible symbol of acceptance. They were baptized, and Peter stayed with them a few days.

## Acts 11:1-18

- **The Jewish Christian leaders in Jerusalem questioned Peter about his involvement with the Gentile Christians.**
- **Peter explained in detail what happened.** This would have included the details of Cornelius' vision, Peter's vision, how the gift of the Holy Spirit came on the Gentiles, and their baptism.
- **Peter reminded those who were questioning him of the words of Jesus.**
- **After hearing Peter, the leaders praised God.**

## K.E.Y. Truth

The gospel of Jesus is for all people.