

Next Door | *a case study in Acts on formissional community*

Putting Community in Your Mission

Acts 10:21-24

October 23, 2022

Introduction: God has a purpose for your life. An assignment. And it begins right where you are, right next door. The Bible tells us that God “became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14 MSG). Nothing will challenge and encourage you more than discovering that God can move in and through your life. That he’s already at work in your neighborhood and that he’s eager for you and a circle of other to join him. There is a biblical pattern for ministry that we at UPC call ‘formissional community’. In this Next Door series we’ll see what that looks like in the lives of two men named Peter and Cornelius.

Prayer: Father, help us to learn from Peter, who was obedient to the Spirit. Amen

Read: Acts 10:21-24

Review: Any further reflections on Cornelius?

Discussion:

1. Was Peter’s question to the three men reasonable? What would you have done?
2. Why did Peter invite the men into his house? What does that tell us about Peter? Did his “vision” assist in his response?
3. Peter left with “some of the brothers” – Is this important for us as we encounter unexpected circumstances and invitations?
4. How do you react to the welcome of Peter, a Jew, by Cornelius, a Roman centurion?

Application: Be prepared to show to others who may be “outside” what happens on the inside with community.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for this text and the relationship between Cornelius and Peter. Amen.