

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

### **Formation in Your Community**

Acts 10:25-43

November 6, 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’s 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, thank you that your work of transforming us is life-long. Open us to being shaped and molded by your Spirit. Amen

**Read:** Acts 10:25-43

**Review:** What surprising invitations do you get this week? What happened as you followed Jesus into a surprising situation?

### **Discussion:**

1. How did God prepare Peter for meeting with Cornelius? Review Acts 10:9-17. What does Peter know about Cornelius before he meets him?
2. How did God prepare Cornelius for Peter’s visit? What might Cornelius know about Jesus from the culture he is in?
3. What more does Cornelius need to know about Jesus? Why is Peter a good person to bring this message?
4. What is Peter’s message to Cornelius? What can you say about Jesus in just a few sentences?
5. Who is God calling you to speak to about Jesus? Who is God calling you to listen to?

**Application:** Prayer is central to this story. How can you make yourself available to hear from God in prayer?

**Prayer:** Father, give us words to tell others about you and the courage to speak those words when your Spirit prompts us. Amen.