

SMALL GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

18 May 2025, Scottsville Community Church, 9 am

SERIES: Resurrection Life – a new dimension for human existence

TOPIC:

MILPARK EDUCATION: *Can anyone withhold water for baptizing this institution?*

LECTIONARY READINGS:

Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, John 13:31-35

OUTLINE

- The alternative community frowned upon
- The alternative community explained
- The alternative community celebrated

ICEBREAKER

Greenside Design Centre College in Johannesburg offers certificate, diploma, degree and postgraduate courses in Graphic Design and Interior Design. DUT also offers Graphic Design and Interior Design qualifications. Assuming money is not an issue, **what are the pros and cons of studying at a private higher educational institution?** The register for accredited private higher educational institutions can be found at www.dhet.gov.za. You might want to visit the website later on to see for yourself what other institutions are there and what do they have on offer.

THE TEXT: Acts 11:1-18

We are still on a journey to explore what the resurrection of Jesus means to us in Scottsville in 2025. Today we discovered that the resurrected Lord is on a mission to build an alternative community (the church). It is a multicultural and multigenerational community. It is a diverse community made up of people from all walks of life: Jew and Gentile, male and female, young and old, poor and rich, black and white. The common denominator is their faith in Jesus the Christ.

1. The alternative community frowned upon

- (a) The apostles and brothers in Jerusalem criticized Peter for going to a house of a gentile (Cornelius). How is this and Peter's response evidence that they didn't think he was the pope/head of the church?
- (b) The Jews really didn't think God intended to save gentiles? What do you think must have gone through their minds when they read texts like Psalm 148:11-14?
- (c) Could it be that the Afrikaner living in Orania is not racist but is cautious and protective of their possessions? Black people have broken every system they inherited from the apartheid government. So, why would anyone welcome such people in their community?
- (d) How is your relationship with your Zimbabwean boss living in South Africa?

2. The alternative community explained

- (a) Peter has a vision. And so did Cornelius. Apart from the reason given in the sermon, what other reasons could there be for God's decision not to convey the message to Cornelius directly?
- (b) Using the 'the Christian message' from the sermon (Acts 10:34-43), how would you explain this message to a child in less than 10 minutes.
- (c) Peter, in the vision, addresses Jesus as his Lord but is not willing to 'rise, kill and eat'. He does this three times. What are some of the areas where the lordship of Jesus in your life is not yet a reality? What help do you need?

3. The alternative community celebrated

- (a) In Acts 11:18 we are told that the apostles and brothers, upon hearing the explanation, glorified God for granting repentance to the gentiles. Faith and repentance are gifts. Salvation is never a matter of understanding. God must reveal himself to a person. Take time to list at least 5 people who need a Charles Wesley's 'quicken ray' in their lives and take your list to God in prayer.
- (b) In John 13:31-35 we saw that Jesus has prescribed one marketing tool for the church to use in evangelism. Again, I will state the obvious. The marketing strategy does NOT include posters (and our faces!) or loud music or 'seeker-

sensitive' sermons. **Brotherly love** is what makes the church attractive to people in the community. How are you practically loving the brothers and sisters (and children) in our little church?