



## Small Group Discussion Guide

### Three Centurions —The Power to Change

April 3-5, 2026 (Easter)

Find this week's sermons and sermon outlines on the World Outreach Church YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@worldoutreachchurch](https://youtube.com/@worldoutreachchurch).

#### Centurion #3, The Power to Change

Acts 10:1–8 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. <sup>3</sup> One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!” <sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. <sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. <sup>6</sup> He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.” <sup>7</sup> When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. <sup>8</sup> He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

#### Observations RE: Cornelius

- a) Cornelius sought God . . . v.2, “He and all his family were devout and God-fearing, he gave generously and prayed to God regularly.
  - b) God responded to Cornelius . . . The entire narrative around Cornelius is initiated by God; an angel visits Cornelius with instructions, Peter has a vision of a sheet let down from heaven, God pours out the Holy Spirit just as He had in Acts 2.
1. Discuss the behaviors, practices and habits that are expressions of your desire for yourself and your family to “know God”.
  2. Share one or two times God has “responded” in your life, what was the impact?

#### Even Jesus' Friends Need New Beginnings!

John 21:15–16 (NIV®)

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

**Peter denied he knew Jesus.**

**Jesus was left alone to suffer.**

**Jesus extended forgiveness and a future to Peter.**

3. Why do you imagine Peter denied he knew Jesus?
4. When betrayed by someone you trust, how do you respond?

**Jesus did not “overlook” Peter’s failure, he sought Peter out and addressed the issue. Jesus provided a new beginning for Peter.**

5. Describe a “new beginning” God has provided in your life.
6. “New beginnings” arrive with new purpose, share a bit about how God brings new pathways to your life.

## **Prayer of Forgiveness and Restoration**

Heavenly Father,

I choose Jesus as Lord and will serve Him as King.

Forgive me of my indifference and reluctance;

I have allowed the fear of others’ opinions to diminish my faith and courage.

Forgive me of my sins, my willful disobedience to You.

I forgive all those who have sinned against me.

Restore the joy of my salvation.

Renew my heart, so that Your invitations are more clear than my failures.

I choose to serve Jesus with all my heart, mind, soul, and body.

May I see the power of God at work in me, through me, and around me. Amen.