

2. Read 11:1-3. What shocked the Jerusalem church most about the rumors from Caesarea was not that Peter had baptized Gentiles (non-Jews), but rather that he had eaten with them. Why do you think this bothered them so?
3. How does Peter dispel the idea that Gentiles were second class citizens in God's eyes? (Acts 11:15-17)

Influencing Our World

1. Why is change sometimes so hard for people? Why is it hard for churches to change?
2. Why do you think Peter goes to such great lengths to tell the whole story of what happened?

Deepening Our Hearts for God: Religious Institutionalism happens when the cultural expectations of our religion become more important than the God's ultimate desire to expand His Kingdom and reach more people with the Gospel.

- Any evidence of religious institutionalism in your life?
- Have you noticed any in our community?
- Have you noticed any in our church? How can we initiate some positive change in this area?

Looking Ahead: Read Acts 11:19-30. What is the "bottom line" of this section of Scripture? How you explain the main lesson or point in a sentence or two?



Deck Discussion Questions

Striving to Know God and His People Better

Coming Together: Think back to when you were in school. Who was the "wrong crowd" to hangout with? What reactions would you have likely received if you started hanging out with them?

Growing in Our Understanding

1. Read Acts 11:1-18. Answer the following questions:
 - Who are the key personalities involved?
 - What are the key issues they are debating?
 - What evidence does Peter give to defend his position?
 - What role does the gift of the Holy Spirit play in Peter's thinking and argument?
2. In your own words, what do you think is the main point of Acts 11:1-18?
3. Who were the "circumcised believers"? Why were they so against eating with the Gentiles?

Unwrapping God's Principles

1. How do you explain the attitude change we see between Acts 11:2 and 11:18 when it comes to being around the Gentiles?