

REAL CHURCH GROWING FAITH:

A TEACHING SERIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Real Truth in a Real World

Jumping to Conclusions

Acts 11:1-18

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

Share a time when jumping to conclusions created embarrassment for you or for someone else.

1. Criticism comes easily.

Read verses 1-3. Why does Peter face initial criticism? What are some ways you've experienced criticism prematurely or unjustly as a Christian? How did you handle it?

When are you most tempted to respond to someone prematurely with easy criticism? Where does it creep into your thoughts and conversations most often?

There's a danger that comes with easy criticism. It is deadly, because at its heart is pride, born out of preference. What are some ways we can accept each other's different preferences?

Share some ways these Christians should have responded to Peter? How does thinking about this help you to respond the right way?

2. God might surprise you.

As you read verses 4-17, Peter is still amazed at how God is expanding the work of Jesus. What are some evidences of his amazement? What is something specific in your walk with God that still amazes you? How does it impact your life?

Think about how God challenged Peter's convictions. What are ways God has challenged some of your convictions (cf. 10:13-14)?

As a growing Christian, God should constantly be surprising you. Agree or disagree?

3. Keep an open mind.

Peter keeps an open mind, and goes to new places. How have you seen that work in your Christian life?

Read verse 18. What gives you the sense that the change of heart and mind was not reached reluctantly?

What are some examples of "secondary doctrines?"

As you consider this story, what are some things that can guide your willingness to change your heart and mind about secondary doctrines and/or preferences?

For deeper study this week, reread Acts 11:1-18 and consider the following questions:



What is something that shines from these verses, impacts, draws attention?



What is difficult to understand in these verses? What would you like to ask the writer, or the Lord?



What is a point of personal application for your life from these verses?