

THE BOOK OF
ACTS
LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Acts 9:32 - 11:18

Message + Mission + Multiply

Acts 9: 32-33 NIV

As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord's people who lived in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years.

Acts 9: 34-35 NIV

“Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Question

How many living in
Lydda and Sharon
turned to the Lord?

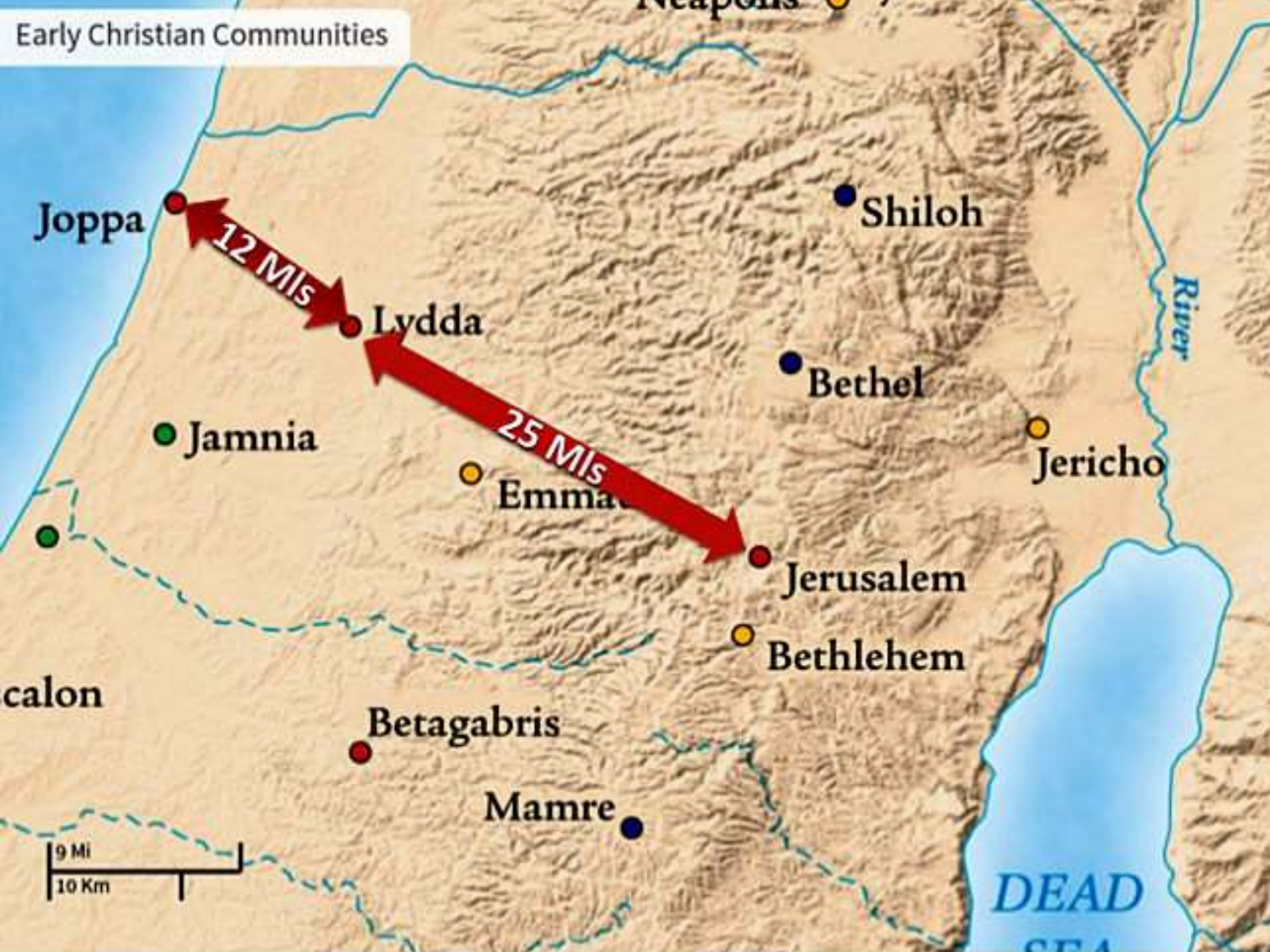
Acts 9: 36-37 NIV

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.

Acts 9: 38 NIV

Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

Early Christian Communities



Joppa

12 Miles

Lydda

25 Miles

Jamnia

Emmaus

Shiloh

Bethel

Jericho

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

Betagabris

Mamre

9 Mi
10 Km

DEAD SEA

Galilee

Jordan River

Acts 9: 39 NIV

Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

Question

How would you
describe someone like
Dorcias?

Acts 9: 36-37 NIV

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.

Acts 9: 39 NIV

Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

Acts 9: 40 NIV

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.

Acts 9: 41 NIV

He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet.

Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive.

Acts 9: 42-43 NIV

This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

Acts 10: 1-2 NIV

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

Question

Was Cornelius a Jew?

Question

What is a Centurion?

Question

What does it mean
that he and all his
family were devout
and God fearing?

This was a term used
by Jews that refers to
gentiles who abandoned
their pagan religion and
worshipped Jehovah God,
but were not
circumcised converts
to Judaism.

Acts 10: 3-4 NIV

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!"

Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.

Acts 10: 4-6 NIV

The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

Question

Isn't it a powerful fact to know that our offerings and prayers reach heaven?

Acts 10: 7-8 NIV

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. He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

Acts 10: 9-10 NIV

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

Acts 10: 11-13 NIV

He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

Question

What is wrong with
this command to eat
these animals?

Acts 10: 14 NIV

“Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”

Question

Does Peter's
response sound
familiar?

Please turn to

Matthew 16: 22-23

Matthew 16: 22-23 NIV

Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. “Far be it from You, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to You!”

Matthew 16: 22-23 NIV

But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me. For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

Acts 10:15 NIV

The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

Acts 10: 16 NIV

*This happened three times,
and immediately the sheet
was taken back to heaven.*

Question

What happened three times?

Question

Why was it so hard to
get the point across
to Peter?

Acts 10: 17-18 NIV

While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

Acts 10: 19-20 NIV

While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

Question

How soon after
Peter saw the vision
did the visitors arrive?

Acts 10: 21 NIV

Peter went down and said to the men, “I’m the one you’re looking for. Why have you come?”

Question

Had Peter figured out
the meaning of the
vision yet?

Acts 10: 22 NIV

The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say."

Acts 10: 23 NIV

Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along.

Acts 10: 24 NIV

The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.



Acts 10: 25-26 NIV

As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

Question

Can you describe the relationship between the Jews and the Gentiles?

The Jews considered the dirt from a Gentile country defiled, and if a Jew happened to have some Gentile dirt on their feet and tracked it into Israel, it never mixed with Israel soil; it just stayed and continuously defiled the land.

Because of this, whenever
a Jew left the Gentile
country, they would
always shake the dust
off their feet so as not
to track any Gentile
pollution back into Israel.

Acts 10: 27 NIV

*While talking with him,
Peter went inside and
found a large gathering of
people.*

Question

How do you think this large gathering of Gentiles felt?

Question

How do you think
Peter felt?

Acts 10: 28 NIV

He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.

Acts 10: 29 NIV

So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

Acts 10: 30-31 NIV

Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor.'

Question

What does the fact that the Centurion was praying at three in the afternoon tell us about his faith?

Acts 10: 32-33 NIV

Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.' So I sent for you immediately

Acts 10: 32-33 NIV

and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

Acts 10: 34-35 NIV

Then Peter began to speak: **I now realize** how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.



Question

What did Peter just realize?

Acts 10: 36 NIV

You know the message
God sent to the people of
Israel, announcing the
good news of peace
through Jesus Christ, who
is Lord of all.

Acts 10: 37 NIV

You know the message
God sent to the people of
Israel, announcing the
good news of peace
through Jesus Christ, who
is Lord of all.

Question

What did they know
and how did they
know it?

Acts 10: 38 NIV

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Acts 10: 39-41 NIV

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.

Acts 10: 39-41 NIV

He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

Question

What is important
about the fact that
Jesus ate and drank
with them?

Please turn to
Acts 13: 32-35

Acts 13: 32-35 NIV

*“We tell you the good news:
What God promised our
ancestors he has fulfilled for
us, their children, by raising
up Jesus. As it is written in
the second Psalm:*

*“‘You are my son; today I
have become your father.’*

Acts 13: 32-35 NIV

God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said,

“I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’

So it is also stated elsewhere:

“You will not let your holy one see decay.’

Acts 10: 42-43 NIV

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 10: 42-43 NIV

All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Question

Who else has been
commanded to
testify about Jesus?

Acts 10: 44-46 NIV

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

Acts 10: 44-46 NIV

The circumcised
believers who had come
with Peter were
astonished that the gift of
the Holy Spirit had been
poured out even on
Gentiles.

Acts 10: 44-46 NIV

*For they heard them
speaking in tongues and
praising God.*

Question

Who were the
circumcised believers?

Question

Does it sound like the
Jews have completely
gotten over their
prejudices yet?

Question

Who else had the Holy Spirit poured out on them and were speaking in tongues?

Question

Why is this
important?

Acts 10: 46-48 NIV

Then Peter said, "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

Acts 10: 46-48 NIV

So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Question

Is there a difference between the Holy Spirit being poured out and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

Question

Why is Peter asking
that they be
baptized?

Acts 11: 1-3 NIV

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

Acts 11: 1-3 NIV

So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

Question

Who else usually
criticizes others?

Hint: He even criticized Jesus

Question

Why is Peter being criticized?

Acts 11: 4-17 NIV

Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was.

Acts 11: 4-17 NIV

I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

Acts 11: 4-17 NIV

“I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

“The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’

Acts 11: 4-17 NIV

This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

*“Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. **The Spirit told me** to have no hesitation about going with them.*

Question

How do you think the Spirit spoke to Peter telling him to have no hesitation about going with them?

Acts 11: 4-17 NIV

These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

Acts 11: 4-17 NIV

*“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. **Then I remembered** what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’*

Acts 11: 4-17 NIV

So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"

Question

Who has learned not
to stand in God's
way?

Question

Why was it important
that the Holy Spirit
fell upon the Gentiles
also?

Acts 11:18 NIV

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

Question

Does it sound like
there is still a little
prejudice going on?

Next Week

Please Read

Acts 11:19-13:13