

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes

w/c 19th July 2026

Acting it out – A Bigger Picture Acts 10 & 11

Background

This teaching series will direct out attention to Jesus' call to be his disciples, together on mission. The church is the outworking of the events of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. One of the key themes of the book of Acts is how the people God are to 'live under the rule of Jesus, between covenant fulfilment and cosmic renewal. The gift of the spirit makes us living examples of the former (covenant fulfilment) and signposts to the latter (cosmic renewal). Welcome to the Missionary church' (The Challenge of Acts, Tom Wright).

In our earlier series through Mark, 'Who is this man?' we've seen the answer that Jesus is the Messiah, God's anointed king. He becomes king through His death and resurrection, turning the world upside. In Acts. Luke describes what happens next. How we are to act this out. Jesus sends out his people to be messengers and signposts, so that others may come into this kingdom and enjoy restoration and reconciliation.

Through these studies we will focus on how the people of God, as a spirit filled community in Christ, are to live out this vocation.

This study follows the sermon on 21st July 2026. If you weren't able to be at the service, you can watch on YouTube (<https://youtube.com/belmontexeter>) or listen on the Belmont website (<http://belmontexeter.church/talks>)

The discussion outline below is a guide only. Please take time to pray and prepare the discussion for your group. Some resources you may find helpful to supplement these notes are:

Tom Wright, *Acts for Everyone*

Tom Wright, *The Challenge of Acts*

John Stott, *The Message of Acts* (BST)

<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-acts/>

BIG IDEA: God has no favourites. He calls us to cross cultural boundaries to share good news.

WAY IN: Take a few minutes to share ways you've noticed God at work in your life, and in the world around you in recent days / weeks. How has this encouraged you? Spend time praising God.

Pray for your time of discussion and learning to be a time that helps you grow in love, understanding.

READ: Acts 10 : 9 – 38, 44 –47

The whole episode stretches across Acts 10 and 11 with quite a bit of repetition. The above sections will form the basis of the study but if you want the full experience then read the chapters with different voices.

DIG IN

What boundaries / assumptions limited Peter's view of God's work?

What did God do to help Peter cross those boundaries?

Trace the steps of Peter's learning by looking at his questions to God, his actions and statements towards others (10v 14, 17, 21, 23, 26, 28, 34-35, 45).

How do any of these stages / moments reflect ways that we notice God has directed our ways?
Testimony of how God teaches and directs us to see things His way and not ours.

What is the right response to God's invitation? And God's blessing?
Fear God and do what is right (v35) / acceptance, forgiveness of sins

LIVE IT

Can you identify people / groups you have discounted as 'not needing' the gospel?

Are there prejudices we need to deal with?

How can we be more open to these prompts from God?

What boundaries do we need to cross to share the gospel?
Cultural, political, racial, ethical...

PRAY IT IN

Pray for opportunities to share good news with others.

Name three people for whom you'd like to pray consistently. Share these with another person and help each other pray regularly and to share good news of what has done.

Pray for willingness and courage to speak and share with people who come from very different backgrounds to your own.