**BECOMING A BRIDGE BUILDER**

**FOR ALL PEOPLE**

**Acts 10:28-48**

**THE BIG IDEA: The Gospel must be shared with all people and God is already working in the lives of those whom He is calling us to reach..**

***BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL REQUIRES:***

**RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF GOD TO EVANGELIZE ALL PEOPLE**

* *“Peter said to them, ‘You know it’s forbidden for a Jewish man to associate with or visit a foreigner, but God has shown me that I must not call any person impure or unclean. 29That’s why I came without any objection when I was sent for.’”* (Acts 10:28-29a)
* **God will intentionally move you out of your comfort zone and place you in uncomfortable situations for the sole purpose of bringing Himself glory.**

***BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL REQUIRES:***

**ALLOWING GOD TO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ YOUR HEART AND MIND REGARDING PEOLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOU**

* *“Peter began to speak: ‘Now I truly understand that God doesn’t show favoritism, 35 but in every nation the person who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.’”* (Acts 10 34-35)
* **At the foot of the cross is the only place where all people are treated equal, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, skin color, gender, or social status.**

***BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL REQUIRES:***

**KEEPING THE MISSION OF THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AS OUR FOCUS**

* *“He sent the message to the Israelites, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.”* (Acts 10:36)
* *“He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.’”* (Acts 10:42-43)
* **Because the Gospel (Good news) of salvation is for all people, it is imperative that we are intentional about building relationships with those who are different from us so that they may be saved.**
* *“Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. 20 When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. 21 When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. 22 When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. 23 I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.”* (1 Corinthians 9:19-23 NLT)
* **When we love God above all else we will truly love our neighbor as ourselves and do whatever it takes to reach them for Christ.**

**GOD HAS ALREADY PREPARED THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE TO RECEIVE THE GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS)**

* *“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who heard the message.”* (Acts 10:44)
* **There are broken, hurting, and lost people all around us that are searching for the very thing we possess a Christians…a hope that is found only in Christ!**

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN TO ALL WHO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS)**

* *“The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and declaring the greatness of God.”* (Acts 10:45-46a)
* **Every person that trusts Jesus as their Saviour receives the gift of the Holy Spirit at the moment of their conversion in Christ.**

**BAPTISM IS THE FIRST ACT OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AFTER RESPONDING TO THE GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS)**

* *“Then Peter responded, 47 ‘Can anyone withhold water and prevent these people from being baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ 48 He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”* (Acts 10:46b-48a)
* **A person who has truly accepted salvation through Christ will desire to honor Jesus’ command to be baptized.**
* *“As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, ‘Look, there’s water. What would keep me from being baptized?’ 38 So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.”* (Acts 8:37-38)

**THE GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS) IS THE KEY TO BREAKING CULTURAL BARRIERS THAT HINDER KINGDOM WORK**

* *“Then they asked him to stay for a few days.”* (Acts 10:48b)
* **Fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) moves beyond just sharing the Gospel, to deepening relationships for the purpose of discipleship.**
* **When we are walking in step with the Spirit of God we can overcome our cultural barriers to experience true Gospel Community with those who are different from us.**

**\*\*CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION ON BACK\*\***

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** What is the most culturally unique place you have ever been?

**START THINKING (Observation):**

* What does Acts 10:28-48 teach us about God?
* What changed Peter’s mind about seeing all other ethnic groups as “unclean”?
* What does this passage of Scripture show us about being obedient to evangelize others?
* Why was it significant that they asked Peter to stay a few days after they accepted the Gospel message?

**DIGGING DEEPER (Understanding and Application):**

* Being intentional can mean placing yourself in unfamiliar environments or uncomfortable situations. Why is comfort such an obstacle in racial reconciliation?
* God could have easily sent Cornelius to Peter. Instead, He had Cornelius send for Peter to come to his home. Why is it so important to God for His people to go first?
* How have you built bridges with people who are different from you?
* How often do you spend time with (share meals/travel/hang out/text/call) people of other cultures? What have you learned?
* What are some ways you can intentionally build bridges with people different form you in the coming weeks/months?

**LOVING OUTWARD**

* Who in your life needs to hear the truth of the Gospel? How has this message/text affected and/or inspired you to reach them?
* Who are you inviting to Church next Sunday?