

# Discussion Questions

## Acts 10, Galatians 2:11-14

### Introduction

It's hard for us today to understand how serious eating together was in the first century. If we are eating with some co-workers, we don't stop to inquire about their ethnic background before we sit down.

When we go to a restaurant, we eat surrounded by people we don't know without giving it a thought.

Yet, it's not hard to imagine places right now where if your skin is the wrong color, or if you are a part of the wrong religion, or maybe even where your accent gives you away as the wrong sort of person that there will be some who will not eat with you.

### Ice Breaker Question(s)

1. Have you ever felt rejected because of your race, or religion, or something else? What happened? Why did it hurt so deeply?

### Read and Discuss Acts 10

1. Acts 10 recounts a story where Peter has a vision in which God commanded he eat "unclean" Gentile foods. When the vision ends, Peter is immediately invited to the house of a Gentile named Cornelius. **Read the account of their meeting in Acts 10:30-36** (*you are encouraged to read a story like this in the NLT version*)
2. Peter then proceeds to share with Cornelius and the others about Jesus' death and resurrection. **Read what happens in Acts 10:44-48.**
3. Why were the Jewish believers amazed that the Holy Spirit "fell" on the Gentiles?
4. This was a huge moment for the expansion of the Jesus-movement. Why do you think it was so important to the future of the church?

### Read and Discuss Galatians 2:11-14

1. Why was Paul so angry with Peter?
2. Paul's confrontation with Peter happened years after the events of Acts 10. What do you imagine was going through Peter's mind when he was visited by those traditional Jewish believers? What could have caused him to reject table-fellowship with the Gentiles?
3. Peter knew better, but rejected the Gentiles anyway. Have you ever succumbed to peer-pressure in this way?
4. How did Peter's actions affect those around him?
5. Why do you think Paul told this story to the Galatians? In other words, how does this story relate to the ideas in the letter that

Jesus + Anything = Nothing, and

Jesus + Nothing = Everything?

6. Paul's confrontation with Peter wasn't just a squabble between two interpretations about a trivial idea; this involved the very heart of the gospel. How do you discern what issues really matter to the gospel?

#### Application and Prayer

1. What do I need God to do **in me** or **through me** as a result of today's discussion?
2. Who do I need to pray for as a result of today's discussion?
3. During your prayer time, consider confessing ways in which you separate yourselves from other Christ-followers to protect your own reputation. And forgive those who have done the same to you. Ask God to open your heart towards people who are different from you.