

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Acts: Spirit Led. Mission Driven.

Title: Spirit Led: Cornelius

Speaker: Michael Dick

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WARM-UP

We've been celebrating 90 years of our church's ministry in this community. What led to you join South Abbotsford Church? What values or relationships help you maintain a sense of belonging to the people of God here at South Abbotsford?

DISCUSSION

The significance of the story of Cornelius is not only in how the Spirit works in leading people to Christ and directs believers but also, from Luke's perspective, widening the circle of who is included in the people of God – Jews, Samaritans and now Gentiles.

1. What stands out to you in the story of Cornelius?
2. Have you experienced someone approaching you with questions about faith or sensed the prompting of the Spirit to witness to someone? How did you respond?
3. What are some of the cultural barriers that have perhaps been road blocks to our faith witness? (What were some childhood taboos that are now accepted practices in the church?)
4. What prejudices do we carry that keep us from being effective witnesses for Christ?
5. There is much in current media that reminds us that we have not treated indigenous people fairly or with dignity. How would you feel/respond to our Sunday worship service including the following statement?...

"We would like to acknowledge the traditional ancestral unceded shared territory of the Sumas First Nation and Mastqui First Nation. These two First Nations are part of the Stó:lō Nation. The Stó:lō people have lived in the Fraser Valley for 10 000 years. It is for this reason that we acknowledge the traditional territory in which we reside."

DISCUSSION

6. Cornelius was a God-fearer, generous, a man of prayer. Why was that not enough for his 'salvation' and what is the significance of his conversion for our witness in a pluralistic society? How do we share our conviction that Jesus is 'the way, the truth and the life' (John 14:6).

7. How is the inclusion of Cornelius - the Gentiles - good news for us as the people of South Abbotsford Church?

Application

Share and pray for people in your circle of influence that have yet to confess Jesus as Lord. Pray that the Spirit of Christ would draw people to himself. Pray that we would be united as a Church family so the Spirit can use us as a witness in our community