



**Power to Witness in Word and Deed***The Book of Acts***Acts 11:1–18****Read Acts 11:1–18.**

1. In response to Peter's presentation of the Gospel, Cornelius and his household believed, received the Holy Spirit and were baptized (10:43–44, 48). Where is Peter when this week's passage begins? (10:24, 48)
2. What rumor was spreading like wildfire throughout Judea and reached the apostles in Jerusalem before Peter's arrival? (v. 1)
3. Why is the rumor so unsettling? (10:28a)
4. When Peter arrives in Jerusalem, how do his fellow believers "greet" him? (vv. 2–3)
5. How does Peter address the criticisms of the circumcised believers? (v. 4)
6. A few days earlier, Peter had the same objections as those who are now criticizing him.
  - a. What new perspective has God given him?
  - b. How has God brought about this change in perspective?
  - c. Why do you think Peter is not defensive when he is criticized?
7. Acts 11:12 implies that Peter is not alone when he addresses the Jerusalem believers. How does the presence of "these six brothers" add credence to his defense? (10:44–48)

8. The inclusion of Gentiles in God's family along with Jews is revolutionary. How is God's sovereign activity evident in the following verses?
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| v. 5  | v. 12 |
| v. 7  | v. 13 |
| v. 9  | v. 15 |
| v. 10 | v. 16 |
| v. 11 |       |
9. What is the most convincing proof that God has included the Gentiles in his plan? (vv. 15, 17–18)
10. What does Peter remember Jesus saying that further convinces him and his listeners of the truth? (v. 16)
11. Peter realizes that refusing to acknowledge God's acceptance of the Gentiles amounts to what? (v. 17)
12. Peter finishes re-telling his story.
- How do his listeners in Jerusalem respond? (v. 18a)
  - What conclusion do the Jewish believers reach that shows they are now on board with what God is doing? (v. 18b;  \* Rom. 10:11–13; 1 Cor. 12:12–13)
13. We are not so unlike these early believers at Jerusalem who brought into their new faith some old ways of thinking. How are your ideas about God and what he is doing being challenged as you grow in your understanding of the scope of his will and purpose?

\*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.