



Small group discussion questions April 2016

Chapter & verse – Francis Brienens (page 18)

Read Acts 11:1-18 followed by Francis Brienens’s article.

1. What stories have had a profound impact on your life, or on the life of your church? Why did they make such a difference?
2. In verses 2-3 of this passage, Peter is criticised by the circumcised believers. Can you put yourself in their shoes? Why might Peter’s actions have been upsetting for people?
3. Peter’s experiences “lead him to admit with astonishment that God has no favourites,” as Francis says in paragraph three. Why might Peter find this astonishing?
4. In what way are the events of this story “another Pentecost”, as Francis calls them in paragraph four?
5. The point of the book of Acts, Francis says in paragraph five, is to tell the early church about “their identity and purpose”. What do you think they learned from the story of Peter and Cornelius?
6. In the same paragraph, Francis describes the activity of the Holy Spirit in this story. What do we discover about the Holy Spirit from this?
7. Francis ends with a challenge about our own response to the Spirit. How does this challenge apply to our own time and place?

For further reflection: “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” Romans 12:5

Prayer: God of Jew and Gentile, outsider and insider, holy people and lost sheep, lead us by your Spirit, we pray, for we have no other way to follow you. Help us to know when we are standing fast in the Spirit, and when we are standing in the way. Give us the wisdom and the grace and the strength to change, and to love those whom you love. Amen.