

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

Acts 11:1-18

Session Summary

Instead of rejoicing that some who were far from God were being brought near, a certain group of Jews responded with opposition and criticism. The circumcision party believed that Gentiles had to become externally, ceremonially Jewish in order to be saved by Jesus. They didn't believe the gospel was for all people. So, when they should've been rejoicing that God and His word were being honored, they were busy criticizing Peter. Peter has eaten "unclean" food with "unclean" people, or so they think. But through Peter, God is about to open their eyes to the scope of God's redemptive purposes in Jesus.

This story shows us the importance of having a mind that is shaped by God's purposes and plans. If our hearts and minds are shaped more by our cultural prejudices and stereotypes than God's word, we will never reach out to others like we should. As Peter obeyed God's voice, God made his obedience fruitful. God used Peter to bring salvation to people who Peter never imagined would come to Christ. Peter's example shows us that we need to be willing to minister to people who are not like us. God's will is to bring people from every nation and ethnicity into His family. He wants to use us to accomplish that mission.

- What are some things that make us hesitant to reach out to others, like Peter was at first?
- How can we overcome our tendency to be critical and judgmental like the circumcision party?
- How can we show the love of Christ to people who are different than us?
- Who has God put in our lives that we can share Jesus with?

As a family, pray every night this week for God to give you an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with someone who isn't a believer. God has placed you wherever you are by His providence, and He brings people along your path to love and witness to. Look for those opportunities. At the end of the week, discuss how you did and what you can do as a family to continue to make sharing Jesus with others a priority in your lives.