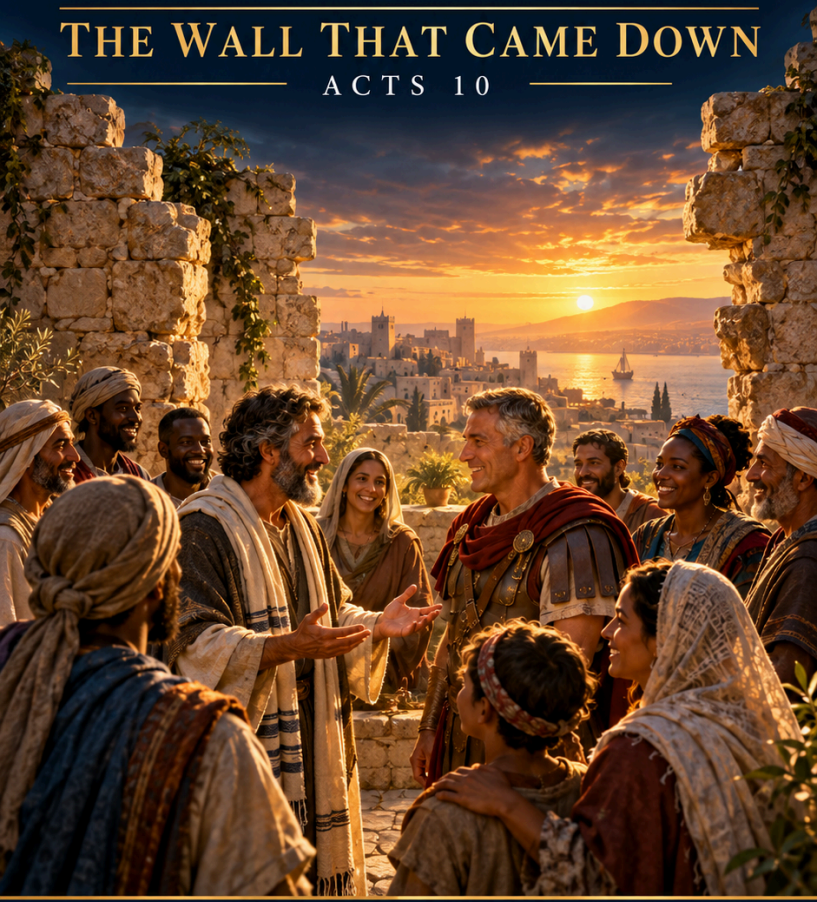
LIFE GROUP GUIDE

It's Not About A Ham Sandwich

The Wall That Came Down

ACTS 10



Grant Askham

The Bridge Church

20 September 2026

WELCOME

Grant led us through Acts 10 as a story of God welcoming Gentiles into His family through Christ. Cornelius’s prayer, Peter’s vision and their meeting all lead towards the same discovery: Christ has broken down the dividing wall. Tonight we will consider how that welcome changes our shared life, our inherited assumptions and the way we serve others.

THE WORD BEFORE OUR WORDS

READ ALOUD TOGETHER

Have one or more people read Acts 10:1–28 aloud, followed by Ephesians 2:14–15. Listen before anyone comments. Notice the movement from prayer and vision to hospitality, equality and one family in Christ. Keep your Bibles open as you discuss.

CHRIST IS OUR PEACE

Ephesians 2:14–15 (NIV)

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15** by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

MAKE ROOM FOR EVERY VOICE

Allow 30–45 minutes together: about 7 minutes for Scripture and welcome, 5 for the recap, 15–24 for the three conversations, and 3–9 for prayer and the take-home thought.

Invite everyone to contribute, without putting anyone under pressure. Listen carefully to one another and keep returning to the Scripture and the sermon.

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THE SERMON IN A FEW MINUTES

Grant began by moving the focus beyond dietary rules to the mystery introduced in Ephesians 3: Gentiles included through Christ. He asked for the Holy Spirit to make the written Word alive in our hearts. Cornelius then gave us a picture of devotion expressed in prayer, generosity and household influence. God knew him by name and told him to send for Peter.

Peter, already restored by Jesus and staying with Simon the tanner, went onto the roof to pray. Grant used Peter’s hunger and a borrowed prayer shawl to illustrate a heart seeking God and listening under His lordship. The vision challenged Peter’s categories of clean and unclean. The messengers’ arrival brought its meaning into real relationships.

Grant’s memory of his previously all-white school receiving its first Black pupil showed how deeply culture can shape exclusion. Peter’s response moved through hospitality into a Gentile home, where he refused worship and explained that God had shown him not to call anyone impure or unclean.

The conclusion came in Ephesians 2: Christ is our peace and makes the two groups one. Grant emphasised righteousness through Christ, rather than our own merit, and called us to fulfil our priestly function through service and sacrifice so that others may come to know God through Jesus.

WHAT WE HEARD THIS WEEK

• The mystery concerns our welcome into God’s family through Christ.

• Prayer and generosity give practical expression to devotion.

• God’s restoring work prepares people to help others.

• Hearing God can challenge inherited boundaries and lead to hospitality.

• Christ is our peace and righteousness; He makes one family.

• Our shared calling involves service so that others may know Jesus.

THREE CONVERSATIONS

Take your time. Let Scripture and Grant's sermon examine our shared life as well as our individual responses. These conversations gather the whole week's journey.

1

A GROUP READY TO HEAR AND RESPOND

Cornelius prayed, gave generously and acted on the instruction he received. Peter also prayed, then responded as God brought people to his door. Grant linked attentive prayer with practical response.

LET'S TALK: How could our group become more attentive to God and more ready to act together? Discuss what currently helps or hinders that connection, and identify one shared step in prayer or generosity that would put this part of the sermon into practice.

FROM THE WORD: Acts 10:1–8, 19–23

2

WHEN WELCOME CHALLENGES OUR CULTURE

Peter's vision became hospitality towards real visitors. Grant's school illustration exposed the force of inherited cultural boundaries. Christ's family challenges the assumptions that tell us who belongs.

LET'S TALK: What might someone outside our usual circle experience when they meet our group? Consider habits, language and assumptions that can create distance. How could we make Christ's welcome visible while allowing His Word to examine our own attitudes?

FROM THE WORD: Acts 10:15, 23–28; Ephesians 2:14–15

3

ONE FAMILY WITH A SHARED CALLING

Peter refused worship, Christ was proclaimed as our peace and righteousness, and Grant ended by calling us to serve so others may know God through Jesus. Belonging leads into participation.

LET'S TALK: How can we encourage every person's participation without creating a hierarchy of spiritual importance? Discuss what it means to serve from Christ's righteousness, and agree on a practical sacrifice our group could make for someone else's good.

FROM THE WORD: Acts 10:25–28; Ephesians 2:14–15

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Invite several people to pray briefly. Keep the prayers rooted in the sermon and in what the group has discussed.

Listening lives: Ask God to deepen our prayer, generosity and readiness to obey what He shows us.

Walls brought down: Confess inherited prejudice and exclusion. Ask for humility and courage to welcome people across familiar boundaries.

Peace through Christ: Thank Jesus that our place in God's family rests in Him. Pray for relationships shaped by His peace and equality.

A shared calling: Ask for willing hearts to serve and sacrifice so that others may come to know God through Jesus.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Christ has welcomed us into one family.

We can let that welcome shape our prayer, our relationships and our willingness to serve.

This week, let an open heart become an open door.

ONE LAST QUESTION FOR THE WEEK

What will we do together this week that gives someone a clearer experience of the welcome we have received through Christ?

Suggested flow: Scripture aloud • sermon recap • three conversations • prayer • take-home thought