

ALL IN

2022

FIVE WEEKS OF PREPARING FOR GOD'S GREATER MOVE IN OUR CHURCH



TRUST



ACTS 10:23-48
WEEK 2

LIVE IN HIS PRESENCE | LOVE ONE ANOTHER | LEAD OTHERS TO JESUS
CORNERSTONE.AG/ALLIN



CORNERSTONE **365** **ALL IN IS ABOUT TRUST**

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S E R M O N
N O T E S

DATE:

SERMON TITLE:



SESSION 2

ALL IN REQUIRES Trust

*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship with one another**, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

1 John 1:5-7

INTRODUCING THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: TRUST

Let's start by thinking about where trust really matters. It's easy to say you trust someone when you agree and are similar in many ways. But at some point, the deepest relationships recognize the differences and weaknesses in each other and decide to trust each through them. They are ALL IN and trust that God has given them a gift that will require forgiveness and grace as it also produces joy and growth in their life. This is where relationships become a powerful part of God's healing, grace and goodness in our lives. We become so much more than we would have ever been alone.

GETTING STARTED

- 1 This week we talk about trust. Outside of your family, who is someone you trust the most and how has that made a difference in your life?
- 2 What was a time you really trusted God with something you thought would never change and change happened?

ABOUT THIS Passage

SCRIPTURE

READ: ACTS 10:24-48

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. **24** The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. **25** As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. **26** But Peter made him get up. “Stand up,” he said, “I am only a man myself.” **27** While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. **28** He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. **29** So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?” **30** Cornelius answered: “Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me **31** and said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor... **44** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. **45** The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. **46** For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, **47** “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” **48** So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

When you look at the book of Acts, you see a group of believers that are ALL IN for one Kingdom mission. Yet without trust in God and those He places in their lives, they can never truly follow Jesus to the impossible work and legacy He wants to do in and through them. In the end, there is a simple truth that is often overlooked when it comes to true discipleship: To follow Jesus we have to grow to trust one another.

In the Gospels we see Jesus living everyday life on mission with His disciples. Although great crowds would follow Him for healing and food, it was the daily and practical relationship Jesus had with his closest disciples that transformed them. Jesus encouraged and challenged them individually and together as a group. They saw each other fail and saw each other grow. They had to learn to trust God’s plan and gifts in each other even when they saw the worst in each other. Like the first disciples, it is in these moments that our trust will be challenged and when the greatest healing and growth will occur in our lives. The question is: can we still humbly learn together when we see the real state of each others’ lives? In His Presence and in His love, the answer is yes!

QUESTIONS

- 1** Why can trusting be so difficult, especially when it comes to the Church?
- 2** What are some ways that you have grown since being connected to this small group?
- 3** How can we develop sincere, trusting relationships with one another as a small group?

LIVING THIS OUT TOGETHER

At Cornerstone, we want everyone to be a growing disciple who helps disciple someone else. Our small groups, ministry teams, and our new discipleship pathway can all be spaces and places for this to happen as we grow in our trust with God and each other. Part of how we do this is by having the same priorities and commitments as the first church in the book of Acts.

As a church, we want to follow the pattern of the early church found in Acts 2:42-47 and live out their same priorities in discipleship. Here are the programs and ways that we can live these priorities out and use each of them as a way to grow disciples who grow other disciples.

PRIORITY #1: DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

The early church was “devoted to the apostles teaching...” (Acts 2:42). That means they were devoted to studying God’s Word, obeying it and being transformed by it. At Cornerstone, we have developed our new discipleship pathway as a key way that happens. Our discipleship pathway is led by our church elders and has certain requirements that go beyond a small group. These include: a commitment to attend services every week, time outside of the weekly meeting in discussion as well as daily Bible study and prayer. While this Fall semester Discipleship Pathway courses are already closed, new ones will be open in the winter.

QUESTIONS

- 1 In what areas of your life with Jesus do you feel the need to grow in this season? Why?
We encourage you to share these with our discipleship pastor, Pastor Brett, (bdeal@cornerstone.ag) to help direct people to the next discipleship pathway opportunities.

PRIORITY #2: SMALL GROUPS

The early church was “devoted to . . . the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42). That’s what you are doing in your small group right now. Like Jesus and the first disciples, your small group is a key way to really experience Jesus and obey His teachings.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What is one way this small group has helped you grow as a disciple?
- 2 How can small groups not only be a place we learn, but also bring other people whom we can disciple?
- 3 How can each person in the small group invite someone new into the group to give another believer the trusting relationships they need? What about unsaved people?

PRIORITY #3: SPIRIT-LED SERVICES & PRAYER TIMES

In Acts 2:43 we see that the first disciples were, “filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done...”. The Holy Spirit was leading and moving in mighty ways in their times together. This is always what God desires us to experience as a church. Our services and times of prayer are not merely to learn, but to be in His Presence and have the gifts of the Spirit work more of Jesus and His victory in our lives. Our calls to corporate prayer are becoming more and more frequent as we see our world growing farther and farther from Christ.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What is an example of a time you felt the Holy Spirit speak to you in a service or prayer meeting?
- 2 Many times we worry about emotionalism or abuse of spiritual gifts. We also tend to think the move of the Holy Spirit looks one way, when, in fact, the Holy Spirit moves in different ways in different people and circumstances. What would create an atmosphere of trust in your small group as we ask the Holy Spirit to move among us?

Turn to “Pray Together” and pray for a greater move of the Holy Spirit in your small group and in our services.

PRAYER POINTS

Close your time together in prayer. Take down prayer requests at some point. Take your time to live in His presence together. Here are some ways you can choose to pray as a group based on this session:

- 1 Based on what you have heard from each other as you answered the discussion questions, spend some time praying for each other.
- 2 Pray that each one in the group will grow as disciples by taking next steps in discipleship this next year.
- 3 Pray that our church would experience a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit by the end of 2022!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Below is a space for you to write down the prayer requests of others from your small group to pray for all week long.

[illegible]



DAY 1
Another look at Acts 10:24-43

From Cornelius to Peter, we see two distinct moments where the Holy Spirit is at work. First, during quiet time with the Lord, an angel comes to Cornelius and tells him to send men to Joppa and call for Peter. Earlier, God came to Peter in a vision, when he’s going about his day, waiting for a meal, and shares about clean and unclean animals. By application, God shows Peter that he must not call any person impure or unclean. Although unexpected, the timing was not coincidental. Little did Peter know that God was about to break down racial divides. The Holy Spirit was orchestrating a moment with people who didn’t associate with one another.

God speaks to us in multiple ways. For example, an angel came to Cornelius and directed him to send for Peter. On the other hand, Peter’s vision leaves him wondering about its meaning. In both instances, it took trust to take God at His Word. Sometimes it may be as clear as an angel of the Lord directing us. Other times, all the dots may not line up, and it may leave us wondering like Peter. Regardless of how he speaks, it takes trust and obedience, even when we don’t understand. We must trust that the Lord knows what He’s doing. He sees the bigger picture when we only see what’s right in front of us. Being All In requires trust and obedience. Even if we miss it sometimes – God honors our obedience. So, make this your prayer today – Lord, help me be All In and trust and obey even when it doesn’t make sense.

DAY 2
Another look at Acts 10:44-48

When was the last time God, through His Holy Spirit, asked you to do something outside your comfort zone? Did you say “yes” even though you felt inadequate or questioned the wisdom of it? Were you uncomfortable because of the place or people you would be in contact with? As believers, we all face times of being asked to do something we don’t want to do - the “I don’t want to go to Nineveh” moments (Jonah 1:3).

As He did with Peter and the Jewish believers in this passage, God may call us to do something completely foreign to us. Not only was Cornelius a Gentile, he was a Roman centurion, generally considered an enemy of the Jewish people. But God had given Peter a vision, and when he was asked to go to Cornelius, Peter obeyed immediately. He trusted God. He went and shared the Good News of Jesus, and salvation came to Cornelius and his entire household. They received the gift of the Holy Spirit and they were baptized! Peter was even willing to stay with this Gentile to disciple him for several days. This was a complete paradigm shift for these Jewish believers, and what a tremendous kingdom impact it made!

God has a plan and a purpose for each of our lives. We are uniquely gifted with both innate talents and skills we’ve learned through our life experiences. God gives us knowledge and wisdom (Prov. 2:6). At some point He will call upon us to use all these things for His kingdom purposes and glory. When that time comes, will you trust Him and say “yes”?

Lord Jesus, we pray that we are always All In with your plan to use us for your purposes and glory. Help us to never hold back, but to always be strong and courageous, knowing you’re right there with us and will see us through. In Your Precious Name, Amen.



DAY 3
Our Priorities:
We grow disciples through our: Discipleship Pathway

Cornelius trusts that God wants Peter to teach and lead him and his loved ones to follow the way of God (v33). Cornelius wants to be disciplined and he also disciplines others by gathering them to hear God’s truth. This is God’s great call for each of us: to be a disciple and disciple others. Our new discipleship pathway will provide core courses that you can use to be disciplined or you can bring someone else as part of discipling them.

REFLECT
What area (evangelism, prayer, Bible study, etc.) do you need to disciplined in next?
Are you discipling anyone? If yes, then how?

Pray that God would use you to make disciples.

DAY 4
Our Priorities:
We grow disciples through our: Small Groups

Cornelius gathers people to hear God’s Word and experience God’s power (v27). He trusts that God will use that time to learn and grow in His Presence. Small groups are an important way to be disciplined and have time and space set aside to learn to love one another. Regardless of your personality type, small groups aren’t just for some people in our church. They are for all disciples.

REFLECT
What small group do you need to be a part of this Fall?
What small group could you take someone else to so that they can be disciplined?

Pray God will guide you to the right small group.

DAY 5
Our Priorities:
We grow disciples through our: Spirit-led Services & Prayer

Cornelius and everyone with him experience a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit (v44-47). That experience is based on God’s Word and then requires trust that there can be more than emotionalism when we meet with God. Our services and frequent calls to prayer are a vital part of experiencing the Holy Spirit and being empowered for everyday life.

REFLECT
Are you open to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life?
Have you experienced the power of God together with others?

Ask Jesus to help you to grow and discover more of His Presence and power in your life.



In John 17:11 Jesus prayed that all of His disciples would be one. As a church, understanding our mission, priorities and standards helps us to have unity within our great diversity. Knowing these gives us the ability to be ALL IN for His glory 365 days a year!

3 || OUR MISSION

WE grow disciples who:

- 1. Live in His presence**
- 2. Love one another**
- 3. Lead others to Jesus**

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus has given us one mission: go and make disciples. True disciples make disciples. Our church is a place where we strengthen you and provide space to do that. Our mission statement identifies three of the greatest characteristics of a true and growing disciple.

In Mark 12:30, Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love God with everything you have and everything you are. We know this is only possible through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, our mission is to help disciples grow in living in the Spirit (Live in His Presence) every day.

In John 13:34, Jesus gives one new command, to love one another the way He loves us. Cornerstone's mission is to provide the teaching, opportunities and encouragement for each disciple to receive the love of God and grow in living it out. (Love One Another)

In Luke 19:10, Jesus said that He came to seek and save what was lost. True disciples of Jesus want to do the same thing. True disciples make other disciples and fulfill the heart of God to have the lost found and come back to His family. (Lead Others to Jesus)

We sum all of this up with a simple saying: "Live. Love. Lead."

6 || OUR PRIORITIES

Acts 2:42-47 describes the pattern and priorities of the first church that Jesus created through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We commit to these same priorities through specific programs that give you the chance to be discipled and disciple others.

WE grow disciples through our:

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| 1. Discipleship Pathway | (v42) "devoted ... to the apostles teaching" |
| 2. Small Groups | (v42) "devoted themselves ... to the fellowship" |
| 3. Spirit-led Services & Prayer | (v43) "many signs and wonders were done" |
| 4. Bilingual Ministry | (v44) "All ... had everything in common" |
| 5. Ministry Teams | (v45) "They gave to anyone as they had need" |
| 6. Next Gen Programs | (v47) "The Lord added ... those who were ... saved" |

You can find out more about each of these priorities on our website and in our Week 2 & Week 3 ALL IN study.

5 || OUR STANDARDS

Acts 6:3-5 gives us a description of those who were first called to serve the church. We believe that all those who serve should grow into this as a standard. We want every member to become a disciple that has these qualities and commitments in their relationships and in their ministry. These standards grow great disciples who make a very fruitful church! Notice the New Testament church pattern for those who serve & lead.

WE grow disciples with:

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|---|---|
| 1. Personal Integrity | (v3) "known to be full of the Holy Spirit" |
| 2. Ministry Competency | (v3) "we will turn this responsibility over to them" |
| 3. A Team Building Mindset | (v3) "choose seven men from among you" |
| 4. Consistent Communication | (v3) "full of ... wisdom" |
| 5. Prioritizing Diversity in our Unity | (v5) "they chose ...Philip, Procorus, Nicanor ..." |

You can find out more about each of these standards through our Week 4 & Week 5 ALL IN study and in both our Keep Growing and ministry team trainings.



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