



Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

"What God Has Called Clean"

Points from Sunday's Message

Point 1 - Our first instinct is often to try and correct God.

Point 2 - God had to show Peter that the vision was primarily about people, not food.

Point 3 - We spend our lives trying to clean what only God can cleanse.

Point 4 - If you believe in Jesus Christ, today you can be clean.

Key Verse:

"What God has cleansed you must not call common."

—Acts 10:15

Discussion Questions:

1. "No, Lord" — Two Words That Don't Belong Together

Peter had a track record of correcting Jesus: rebuking Him about the cross (Matthew 16:21–23), wanting to build tabernacles on the mountain (Matthew 17:1–8), and now refusing the sheet from heaven. Pastor Garrett said our first instinct as humans is to try to correct God.

Where do you hear yourself saying "I know what the Bible says, but..."? What makes that "but" so easy to say?

Further Reading: Acts 10:9–16; Matthew 16:21–23; Exodus 4:10–13 (Moses); Judges 6:11–16 (Gideon). Notice how God responds to each objection — does He agree that they've picked the wrong person?

2. A God Who Agrees With Us vs. A God Who Transforms Us

One of the sharpest lines in the message: "We would rather have a God who agrees with us than a God who transforms us into His likeness."

Be honest as a group — what's an area where you'd secretly prefer God to sign off on your plan rather than change your heart? What would it look like to actually surrender that area this week?

Further Reading: Romans 12:1–2; Isaiah 55:8–9; 2 Corinthians 3:18.

3. The Vision Was About People, Not Food

Peter thought God was talking about bacon. God was talking about the Gentiles. God had to change how Peter saw people before He could send him to people.

Who are the "Gentiles" in your life — the person or group you've quietly filed under "God couldn't use them" or "they don't deserve His grace"? Pastor Garrett listed some of the categories we use: they've sinned too publicly, they're not in my tribe, my church, my political party, I just don't like them.

Further Reading: Acts 10:17–29; Acts 10:34–35; Galatians 3:26–29; James 2:1–9.

4. Jonah at Joppa — Grace Received, Grace Withheld

It's no accident that Peter's vision happened in Joppa — the same port Jonah fled from. Jonah's problem wasn't that he doubted God's mercy; it's that he knew God was merciful and didn't want the Ninevites to have it (Jonah 4:2). Pastor Garrett said it's striking how easily those who have received grace find fault with God for giving that same grace to others.

Where have you been more like Jonah than like Cornelius — resenting the grace God extends to someone else? What does that reveal about how well we remember our own rescue?

Further Reading: Jonah 1:1–3; Jonah 3:10–4:11; Matthew 18:21–35 (the unforgiving servant); Luke 15:25–32 (the older brother).

5. We Try to Clean What Only God Can Cleanse

Pastor Garrett named five ways we try to make ourselves clean: morality ("I'm a good person"), religion ("I go to the right church"), comparison ("at least I'm not as bad as them"), achievement ("I'll do better"), and denial ("I'm not really that bad") — and he said denial is the most dangerous place to be.

Which of those five is your default? Take a few minutes to actually pray Psalm 51:10 over each other by name this week — "Create in me a clean heart, O God." David didn't offer to scrub his own heart; he asked God to do the creating.

Further Reading: Psalm 51:1–12; Isaiah 1:18; Titus 3:4–7; Ezekiel 36:25–27; Romans 3:10, 23.

6. See, Go, Tell

Peter wasn't cleansed so he could stay on the rooftop — he was cleansed to be sent to Cornelius. The progression is: God saves us, then He sends us. See people differently → go where He sends you → tell them the good news.

Name one specific person — a classmate, a coworker, a neighbor — that God may be sending you to this fall. What's the one honest obstacle ("I'm not an evangelist," "what if they ask something I can't answer," "I'd have to swallow my pride")? Have the group pray for that person by name, and plan to report back next week on your first step.

Further Reading: Acts 1:8; Acts 10:34–48; Acts 11:15–18; Romans 10:9–15; 1 Peter 3:15.

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.