



## STUDY GUIDE – May 31, 2020

**Message Title: UnChanged – Value of Every Person**

**Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes**

*This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.*

### **Warm-up/Icebreaker:**

If you knew that you were going to have a confrontation with someone, which mode of transportation would you take to get there? Explain.

- Concord jet;
- Motorcycle;
- Rowboat;
- Horse drawn carriage; or
- Your own two feet walking backwards.

### **Pray:**

Dear Lord, help us to be people who deeply understand the value of every human being, resisting the tendency to make assumptions, presumptions, and judgements. Reveal to us where we need to take a hard, painful, reflective look at our prejudices. We desire to be like Christ looking not at the outward appearance but at the heart.

### **Get Started:**

Terry L. Paulson, Ph.D., gives professional speakers this advice: “Nothing makes an audience feel more important than a speaker who takes the time to get to know the special needs, vocabulary, and history of their group.”

- Think about a time when you took the time to understand the needs, vocabulary, and history of the person you were going to talk to before the conversation actually took place. What were the results?
- When was the last time you found yourself in a situation with people or in a place that you normally wouldn't go? What happened? Why were you there?

### **Watch and Discuss video:**

Pastor Brian had mentioned Acts 10. Within that chapter is the longest single narrative in Acts. It's a critical step in the development of the church in establishing a new identity; one that includes everyone. We read about the Gospel being directly shared with a group of Gentiles. As a result, the Church will become a universal body of believers regardless of heritage. God uses a Roman centurion and his family to break down this barrier to the Gentile world.

### **Read Acts 10:2-5 and 10:34-43.**

- How does the gospel Peter preaches (10:34-43) challenge Cornelius' goodness (10:2-5)?
- Jewish “superiority” seems to be a deeply entrenched attitude. How did God hammer away at it for Peter and the church?

**Reflect and Commit:**

- Why do attitudes of superiority often seem to be blind spots and, thus, difficult to see in ourselves?
- What principles or beliefs do you hold that limit your ability to reach out to people “different” from you?

The author of the book *White Awake* did an exercise where he had to write down the five authors that he read the most, the five preachers that he listened to the most, the five coaches that spoke into his life the most and also list five of his closest friends. The result.....all white. Consider your lists and how you could expand how you are influenced.

Acts 10 is a pivotal story in the New Testament. Again, it's the official moment of Jesus bringing Jews and Gentiles together as one new family. Now take a minute and read...

**Read Ephesians 2:11-22.**

- What strikes you about this passage?
- In light of Sunday's message about racial tensions and other examples of disunity, are you sensing God prompting you to respond in any way? Take a couple of minutes to pray individually and then share with the group if there is time.

**Pray:**

Dear God, as we continue to face disunity of any sort, help us to become comfortable with discomfort by overcoming our own feelings of superiority and giving voice to racial divides. We can only do that through clothing ourselves with your compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience as it says in Colossians. In a time of many changes, we're grateful for the reminder that the value of a person is unchanged.