

# SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, April 15th, 2018

## Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
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## PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY

// Call to Worship //

From Psalm 100, "His Steadfast Love Endures Forever"

L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
Serve the LORD with gladness!

**C: Come into his presence with singing!**

L: Know that the LORD, he is God!

**C: It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

L: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**C: For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

[Come As You Are](#)

[In Christ Alone](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Most gracious God and loving Father,

We praise and bless you for the great salvation you have freely given us in the gospel. We find great peace in the finished work of Jesus.

**C: We find great joy in the ongoing work of your Spirit.**

L: We find great hope in the future blessings of a new heavens and new earth. As your beloved daughters and sons, we confess our sins, longing for the day we will be made perfect in love.

**C: Forgive us for being more irritable than charitable and more inclined to fret than to pray.**

L: Forgive us for demanding too much of others and expecting too little from you.

**C: Forgive us for choosing the power of our anger over the risk of forgiving.**

L: Forgive us for doubting that you love us as much as you say you do.

**C: Forgive us and free us, in Jesus name, we humbly pray. Amen.**

*// Assurance of Pardon //*

But Jesus Christ is our righteousness  
in making available to us all his merits  
and all the holy works he has done  
for us and in our place.

And faith is the instrument that keeps us in communion with him  
and with all his benefits.

When those benefits are made ours, they are more than enough to absolve us of our sins.

(Taken from the Belgic Confession, 1561)

Dear sinner, receive the good news. Your sins are forgiven. Jesus is all you need. Amen.

[It Is Well](#)

*// Passing of the Peace //*

When Jesus greeted people he often said "Peace be with you!" He said that because He brought peace. We now receive that peace because he took God's wrath for sin. We have been restored to God as His children and to one another as brothers and sisters. Let's take moment now to extend that peace to one another by welcoming one another here this morning.

[Oh You Bring](#)

*// Benediction //*

L: The Good News that you have heard is not only for you, but for your neighbor as well. Go love your neighbor, serve them, and tell them of the greatest news the world has ever heard- "Jesus Christ has come to save sinners!" (1 Timothy 1:15)

And as you do, may Peace be with you!

**C: And Also with you!**

# REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY

// Call to Worship //

L: In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

**C: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

L: Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

**C: He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.**

L: Come now, all who thirst,

**C: and drink the water of life.**

L: Come now, all who hunger,

**C: and be filled with good things.**

L: Come now, all who seek,

**C: and be warmed by the fire of love.**

[Come Thou Fount](#)

[Cornerstone](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven. We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt.

**C: We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins.**

L: When this doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction. Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change through our own efforts.

**C: We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower.**

L: This has left some of us arrogant. This has left most of us anxious and depressed. Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting your grace.

**C: Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

// Assurance of Pardon //

All the prophets testify about Christ that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. ☞ -from Acts 10:43☞

// Passing of the Peace //

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. - Romans 12:9-13

[Blessed Assurance](#)

// Benediction //

L: May God keep you believing that His grace is enough to save you. No matter who you are.

Peace be with you!

**C: And Also with you!**

# FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY

## Scripture to Meditate On:

Romans 10:12–15 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

## Reflection Questions:

- In our Call to Worship this week we said that Jesus “journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.” Have you ever felt rejected by God? When & why? What makes you feel weary? Why does that wear you out? How is the fact that Jesus is present in the midst of those a comfort to you?
- How and when had God sought after you?
- How is the gospel a challenge to morality and religion as a way to get to God? Is that new to you? Did you grow up believing that knowing God was about doing the right things?
- Do you struggle with seeing yourself as ‘unclean’ (unworthy, not enough, a failure, etc.). When and why do you think like that? Have you always thought like that or did it come after a particular event or season in life? What is the good news of the gospel for you in that moment?
- Do you believe you are sent to take the good news of the gospel to those around you? Who in your life has God sent you to love and speak the gospel to? Begin praying specifically for them, that God would pursue them and soften their heart to the message about Jesus.

## Suggested Resources

Videos: [Mission as the Everyday Stuff of Life](#) Jeff Vanderstelt

Articles: [We Are Missionaries: Baptized into the Name of the Holy Spirit](#) by Jeff Vanderstelt

[What Baptism Teaches Us About Guilt, Grace, and Gratitude](#) by William Boekestein

[An Open Letter To Those Frustrated By Their Progress In Sanctification](#) by David Powlison

[Dead Men Don't Dance](#) by Scott Cornock

## RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents)

Articles: [6 Things You Can Do Right Now To Keep Your Kids From Leaving the Church](#) by Nicholas Davis

[On Mission With Us: Tools in the Hands of a Mother](#) by Hannah Morr

## Questions to ask your children

- In Acts 10 we read about a guy name Cornelius who wasn't one of God's people, but became part of God's family. Do you know how someone becomes part of God's family?
- Have you had any good discussions with friends about Jesus lately? Tell me about it!
- Who do you think God has sent you to be a friend to and talk to about Jesus?
- A lot of people think being a Christian is about doing the right things, is that true or is it about something else? What is it about?

Read Acts 10:1-8 with your children and talk with them about it.

Prayer to pray with children:

*Father, we thank you that although people are different, everyone we meet needs the gospel and needs to be saved by Jesus. Help us to tell others about that great news. Give us deeper love for those who don't yet know Jesus. Give us more friendships with people who don't know Jesus. We pray for [names of neighbors or friends who don't know Jesus] and ask that you would soften their heart to the message that Jesus gives us forgiveness for all our sins and new life with God. Thank you for always loving us. Amen.*

## Sermon Review

**Title:** Eat Bacon, Believe the Gospel

**Text:** [Acts 10](#)

**Watch:** <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/eat-bacon-believe-the-gospel/>

**Podcast:** <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

### Sermon Overview:

Sermon Summary:

Those who think they are spiritually ok are not and those who think they aren't are on their way

Acts 10 tells of a very important conversion- that of Cornelius, which is important because this is the first Gentile (non-Jewish) convert to Christianity. As we consider this conversion story we learn at least four facts about conversion: 1) God initiates conversion 2) Good people need conversion 3) The Holy Spirit applies conversion and 4) Conversion comes through the message of the gospel.

### God Initiates Conversion

Although it can be easy to describe this account as Cornelius seeking for God, that's really not it. Yes, Cornelius did send for Peter, but it was only after God sought after him! Cornelius was doing just fine fearing God and doing his good works. He didn't think he needed anything else. It was only when God came for him and Peter told him about Jesus that he realized he needed to be converted! It may be the same for many of us, our story on the surface may seem like we sought for (are seeking) God, but the reality is God is the seeker and we are the ones found (see also Eph 2:1,4-5; Rom 3:10-11; 1 John 4:19)

If you feel like you are currently seeking for God, there is good news here, you can seek with confidence, knowing that if you see your need for Him it can only be because He has already sought after you. A sense of His absence is a sign of His presence.

### Good People Need Conversion

Luke makes sure to tell us two times what a great man Cornelius is (10:2,22), which might confuse many of us. We understand the down and outers need conversion, but even an upright, moral, hard working, and religious man like Cornelius? It's in our surprise that we see the problem with our understanding of the message of Christianity. Unfortunately the average person believes that the call to conversion is a call to morality or "traditional values". The call to go from "bad" to "good" or immoral to moral. But the account of Cornelius and others (see Nicodemus in John chapter 3) shows that the gospel is actually a challenge to morality and religion. Being a good person doesn't mean you are converted. Believing in God doesn't mean you are converted. The message of the apostles throughout Acts so far has not been "be better people" nor "God exists" but rather Jesus Christ was God in the flesh, he lived the perfect life, died for our sin, and offers forgiveness to all who believe in Him. That is the basis of conversion. And that alone.

### **The Spirit Applies Conversion**

In 10:44-46 the Spirit depends upon the people *while Peter was still talking*. And what does the Spirit do? He creates worshipers through the unbelievable message of the gospel. Its the best news anyone could hear! You are a rejector of God, but he sought you out, paid for your wretched sin, and gave you His very righteousness in the person of Jesus Christ, and now you are forever adopted as his child. That will certainly light a fire in sinners hearts!

Then there is this weird part about them speaking in tongues. What's that about? That seems to be a very necessary and profound sign that points to the fact that these non-Jewish people are part of God's family through Jesus, just like the Jews were. To prove this God gives them their own little "Pentecost" just like the Jews had in Acts 2. It is so similar that Peter asks- "Who can withhold baptism from these people"? The same process happened for them as it did for us! They believed, received the Spirit, lets baptize them! And they do. Now there is no more distinction. The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out "even on the Gentiles".

### **Conversion Comes Through the Message of the Gospel**

All this happens when Peter was doing what- proclaiming the good news about Jesus Christ! The angel who appeared to Cornelius certainly could have converted him right there couldn't he have? But he doesn't, instead Cornelius is converted through the message of the gospel! When the good news is spoken, the spirit depends! We might say that the way people are converted is not complicated, but it is specific! The message is specifically about Jesus Christ. His life, death, and resurrection are the hope of the world. And the only hope of the world.

Concluding thoughts....

Are you a person who looks at yourself and thinks of yourself as continually dirty, bad, and unclean? God is saying to Peter- DON'T CALL ANYONE UNCLEAN! But what if we are doing that to yourself? What if you hate yourself, down on yourself. Use the truth that salvation is by GRACE. If you want this God, than this God already wants you.

There are people in your life RIGHT NOW that need this message of freedom. Who are they? TO WHOM HAS GOD SENT YOU? Neighbors, coworkers, staff at your kids school, your teammates, your fellow students, the people at your gym, the person who works the checkout at Target, who has God sent you to? You are sent. He is working in and through you. May He open your eyes to what he is up to. May you respond to his invitation to join Him.