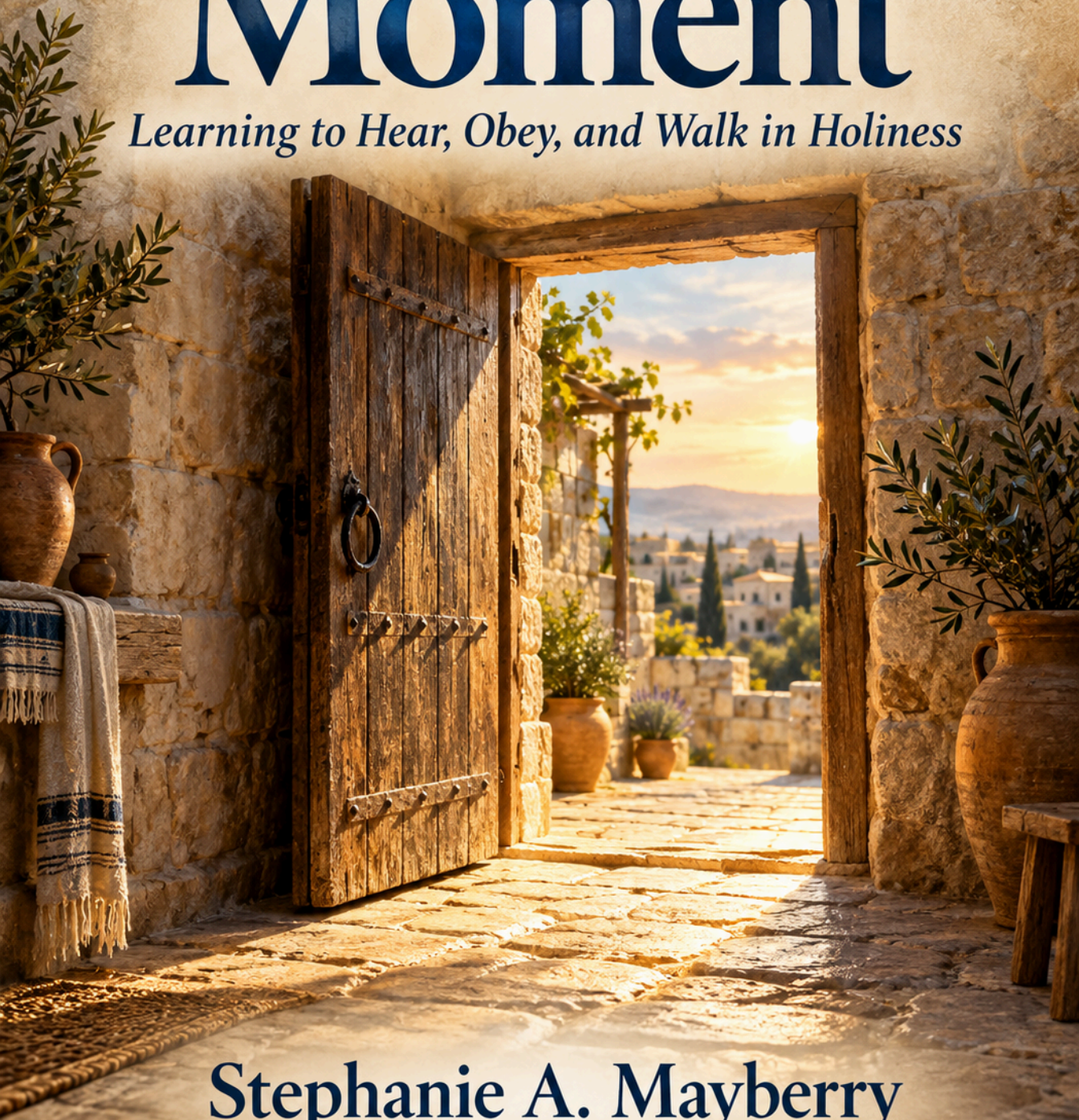


— A DEEPER WALK SERIES —

A Peter Moment

Learning to Hear, Obey, and Walk in Holiness



Stephanie A. Mayberry

— THE BRIDGE —

BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT WALLS.

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Torah Observant Apostolics



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A Peter Moment

Learning to Hear, Obey, and Walk in Holiness

It was 2008, and I was new to social media. I was in a chat group when someone brought up the Sabbath. I grew up Baptist, and that wasn't something I knew much about. We didn't really talk about it.

This person told me I needed to keep the Sabbath because it was “biblical.” But he wasn't showing me Scripture or helping me understand why. He was telling me what to do, and apparently, I was supposed to take his word for it—and obey him.

Then he got a little aggressive.

Needless to say, that didn't go over well.

That interaction left a pretty [bad taste in my mouth](#). For the next couple of years, I didn't want to hear about the Sabbath. I didn't even want to think about it. His approach had pushed me away, and my attachment to tradition helped keep me there.

I wasn't interested in changing.

Then Yehovah started dealing with my husband about Passover. After my earlier experience, I was wary. So I sat back and watched.

As he studied, he shared what he was finding with me. We had some great conversations, opened our Bibles, and did a lot of research together. I had room to ask questions and examine what I was hearing. After about a year, we came to the conclusion that we needed to keep Passover.

That was our first Peter moment.

The Sabbath followed not long after. Another Peter moment for us.

Looking back, I can see how much the approach mattered. That first person wanted me to accept his conclusion. My husband helped me see what he was seeing in Scripture. I needed to understand it for myself, and that understanding led to a change.

So, Let's Talk About This

Have you ever opened your Bible and noticed something that didn't fit what you had always understood? If you're like me, you read it again, checked the surrounding Scripture, and wondered how on earth you had missed *that*.

Or maybe someone asked a question you couldn't answer. You thought you understood the subject, but now you're reaching for your Bible because there appears to be more to it than you realized.

I call that a Peter moment.

You love Yehovah. You're doing everything you know to do to serve Him and be obedient to Him. Then BAM! Something in His Word challenges what you understood or helps you see farther than you could before.

Maybe you were wrong about something you thought you knew. Or maybe your understanding was incomplete, and now you can see that you have farther to go. Either way, what you've discovered calls for a response. Something in your understanding, your attitude, or your behavior needs to change.

And that brings you to a question you can't push off on someone else: *What am I going to do with this?*

I know what it feels like to be wary. I also know what it feels like to read the Scripture and realize that being wary doesn't answer what the verse says. At some point, I had to examine what I believed and decide how I would respond.

You may find yourself there, too.

Peter had a moment like that in Acts 10. He had walked with Yeshua, received the Holy Spirit, and preached at Pentecost. He had taught others, and Yehovah had used him powerfully. Yet there was still something he needed to understand.

That's worth remembering when you think you should be past needing correction.

Come With Me to Cornelius's House

Now, Cornelius is a devoted man who loves Yehovah. Although he is a Gentile, he is doing everything he knows to do to serve Him. Prayer is already part of his life, but he senses there is more. I imagine Yehovah was moving on him, opening his understanding. Don't ignore that still, small voice - even when it says stuff that might make you a little uncomfortable.

But Cornelius is apparently feeling this stirring in his spirit, so he brings that before Yehovah in fasting and prayer, ready to receive what comes next.

Yehovah hears him and tells him to send for Peter. But Peter still has something to learn, too.

Cornelius and Peter haven't met yet, and Yehovah is already working on both ends of the bridge. He is preparing the man who needs to hear and the man who will bring the message. Before Peter ever reaches that doorway, there is so much happening that I don't want you to miss any of it.

Listen to Cornelius's testimony. Follow Peter as he tries to understand what Yehovah is showing him. Pay attention to what each man does with the instruction he receives. You may recognize something of your own journey along the way.

But before you step into that house, get your Bible.

Keep it open beside you. Take your time with the verses and write down the questions that come to mind. You don't have to figure everything out at once. If something surprises you, read it again, including what comes before and after it.

And ask questions. I want you to see it in Scripture for yourself. Someone's confidence can be convincing, and an experience can be powerful, but keep returning to the Word. That's where your roots need to be.

His Word is the foundation you can rely on. As you understand what it says, you can begin to examine what you're hearing and what you've always believed.

Start by reading Acts 10 all the way through. Watch Cornelius, watch Peter, and notice how Yehovah brings their paths together. Then ask yourself where you recognize your own Peter moment.

There is always more to learn. What matters is how you respond when Yehovah helps you see it.

Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible.

Lesson 1: Yehovah Sees the Person Who Is Seeking

Read Acts 10:1–8, 24, 30–33; Acts 11:13–14; and Galatians 1:8.

Cornelius Is Already Seeking

Before you get to the angel, the vision, or Peter standing at the door, look at Cornelius. What kind of man is he?

He fears God with his household, gives generously, and prays continually. His devotion to Yehovah reaches into his home and the way he treats people. This is someone whose relationship with Yehovah matters to him. You can see it in how he lives.

You’re meeting Cornelius in the middle of his journey. Scripture doesn’t tell you when he first began seeking Yehovah or what first opened his eyes. But here he is now: fasting, praying, giving, and ready to hear.

Does any of that sound familiar? You love Yehovah. You’re doing everything you know to do to serve Him. But there’s a hunger that keeps drawing you back to prayer. You want to understand more, obey more fully, and grow closer to Him.

That is what I see in Cornelius. Scripture doesn’t give the exact words of his prayer, but it does let you hear his testimony and watch his response. This man is ready for more.

His Peter moment is unfolding.

Then an angel appears and tells him, “Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God” (Acts 10:4).

Yehovah noticed.

Think about that before you hurry on to the next verse. Before Peter ever arrived, Yehovah saw Cornelius praying, fasting, giving alms, and doing what he knew to do. None of that was lost on Him.

Cornelius was faithful with what he knew. Yehovah led him to what he did not know yet.

And there was something important still ahead. As the story unfolds, you discover that Cornelius still needs to receive the Holy Spirit and be baptized in the name of Yeshua. His devotion is real, but his understanding is incomplete.

Have you ever treated those two things as though they couldn’t exist together? Someone can sincerely love Yehovah and still need instruction. Cornelius does. Peter does, too, although Peter hasn’t discovered his part in this yet.

Peter’s later account says the angel promised that he would bring words through which Cornelius and his household would be saved (Acts 11:14). So Yehovah doesn’t leave Cornelius where he is. He hears this faithful man and directs him toward the message he needs.

Cornelius is yearning for deeper water, and Yehovah is taking him farther.

The Answer Includes a Person

Now, here’s a detail I love. There is already an angel in the room, but the angel tells Cornelius to send for Peter.

The angel gives him direction. Peter will bring the message.

Yehovah uses angels to deliver messages and give direction. But notice what happens here. There is already an angel standing before Cornelius, and the instruction is still, *Send for Peter*. The angel directs him to the person who will bring the message through which he and his household will be saved (Acts 11:14).

That is something I want you to remember when someone claims an angel brought them a new message about salvation. An impressive messenger does not make a different gospel true. Paul addresses that directly in Galatians 1:8—even an angel from heaven cannot give you another gospel. Keep your Bible open. The message still has to agree with the Word.

Cornelius has something to do. He calls two servants and a devout soldier, tells them what happened, and sends them to Joppa. Then he gathers his relatives and close friends.

Can you picture that conversation? Scripture doesn't tell you exactly what he said to them, but I can imagine the urgency: *You need to come over. Yehovah has heard my prayer, and someone is coming to tell me what I need to hear.*

By the time Peter arrives, there is a house full of people waiting.

Cornelius didn't keep this to himself. He made room for the answer and brought people he cared about into the room with him. Testimonies gather people, and Cornelius has something to tell.

Listen to what he says to Peter:

“Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God” (Acts 10:33).

All things.

Cornelius isn't handing Peter a list of acceptable subjects. He isn't saying, *Tell me something encouraging, but please don't bring up anything I might need to change.*

He has gathered everyone before God, ready to hear.

That is quite a welcome. It is also quite a challenge when you turn it toward yourself. If Yehovah answers your prayer by showing you something you hadn't understood, are you ready to receive it?

What If the Messenger Surprises You?

Sometimes the answer to your prayer is a person Yehovah sends to your door or puts in your path. And that person may look nothing like what you expected.

Peter and Cornelius are an unlikely pair: a Jewish apostle and a Gentile Roman centurion. Peter will tell Cornelius about the boundary that could have kept him from entering his house—and what Yehovah showed him that changed his understanding (Acts 10:28).

Oh, Peter has a moment coming, too. But I'll follow him down that road a little later.

Right now, look at Cornelius. He sends for the man Yehovah names, gathers people to hear him, and waits. His hunger has become action.

What about you? When you ask Yehovah for understanding, have you left room for an answer that challenges what you believe? Or does the answer have to fit neatly inside what you already know?

I ask because I know how easy it is to resist before you've even looked at the Scripture. Remember my first conversation about the Sabbath? I didn't want to hear it. The way that person approached me made it harder to listen, and my attachment to tradition did the rest.

So keep your Bible open. You don't have to accept someone's conclusion because they speak confidently or tell you Yehovah sent them. Examine what they show you. Ask questions. Read what comes before and after the verse.

But give the Word room to speak.

Cornelius doesn't know everything Peter will say. He is ready to hear it anyway. And when Peter arrives, there are people waiting whose lives will be changed by what happens in that house.

What would making room look like for you?

Prayer

Yehovah, thank You for hearing me when I seek You. Help me be faithful with what I understand and willing to receive what You still need to show me. Keep me from closing the door because Your answer surprises me. Give me discernment to examine what I hear, humility to learn, and patience with the person who is still learning, too. Amen.

What Do You Notice?

1. Look at Acts 10:1–4 and 30–33. What do Cornelius’s actions tell you about his relationship with Yehovah? Do you recognize anything of yourself in him?

2. What did the angel tell Cornelius to do? How did he respond?

3. Compare Acts 10:33 with Acts 11:14. Cornelius was already devout, so why was Peter’s message still important?

4. Read Galatians 1:8. Why does a claim about an angelic messenger still need to be examined against the gospel already given?

5. Cornelius gathered people and made himself ready to hear. When you ask Yehovah for understanding, how do you prepare to receive it?

6. Have you ever dismissed someone's love for Yehovah because they hadn't understood something you had? How might remembering Cornelius change the way you speak to that person?

Lesson 2: The Teacher Is Still Learning

Read Acts 10:9–29, Proverbs 3:5–6, and Malachi 3:6.

Yehovah Works on Both Ends of the Bridge

While Cornelius’s messengers are approaching Joppa, Peter goes up on the housetop to pray. Cornelius has received his instructions, and now Yehovah is preparing Peter.

Remember, the angel didn’t preach the message of salvation to Cornelius. He told him to send for Peter. There is a person who needs to hear, and there is a person who needs to be ready to speak. Yehovah is working on both ends of the bridge.

Peter becomes hungry while someone is preparing food. Then he sees something like a large sheet lowered from heaven, containing all kinds of animals. A voice tells him to rise, kill, and eat.

Peter’s response? “Not so, Lord” (Acts 10:14). He has never eaten anything common or unclean.

This touches something Peter has practiced all his life. And although the vision happens three times, he doesn’t climb down from the housetop announcing that he has received permission to eat unclean animals. Scripture says he wonders what the vision means.

That detail matters.

Peter knew the nature of the Yehovah he served: “For I am the LORD, I change not” (Malachi 3:6). So before treating this vision as permission to abandon what

Yehovah had already commanded, notice Peter's response. He wonders what it means. And as the story unfolds, Yehovah shows him.

Peter had walked with Yeshua. He was faithful to Him. He knew His nature. It makes sense that he would test what he was receiving against what he already knew of Yehovah. He knew what was written, and he knew Yehovah's voice. There was definitely something to this vision—it just hadn't become clear to him yet.

Think about that, and before you decide that a puzzling vision has overturned Yehovah's instructions, keep reading. Let the story show you what Yehovah is teaching Peter.

See, Peter knows something important has happened, but he doesn't yet understand it. Have you been there? You've read the verse, read it again, and you're still trying to figure out how it fits with what you already know—or think you know.

And Peter is no beginner. He walked with Yeshua, heard Him teach, watched Him perform miracles, witnessed Him after His resurrection, received the Holy Spirit, and preached at Pentecost. Yehovah had already used him powerfully.

Yet here he is, still learning.

Being used by Yehovah doesn't mean you've reached the end of what He needs to teach you. Peter has helped thousands of people respond to the gospel, and now he needs help understanding what Yehovah is showing him.

And this applies to pastors, preachers, prophets, teachers, and apostles—even the Bible study leader in the small group. No one is exempt.

The teacher is still a disciple. Keep that in mind when you become the person someone else comes to for answers.

And Right Then, the Men Arrive

Peter is still wondering when Cornelius's messengers arrive at the gate and ask for him.

How perfect is that timing? Peter is turning the vision over in his mind, and someone downstairs is calling for him. Yehovah hasn't waited for Peter to work out every detail before giving him the next step.

The Holy Spirit tells him:

“Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them” (Acts 10:19–20).

Peter goes downstairs, speaks with the men, welcomes them, and gives them a place to stay. The next day, he leaves with them.

Look at that response. Peter doesn’t stay on the housetop until he can explain the vision to his satisfaction. He doesn’t argue with Yehovah that he doesn’t understand yet. He has instructions from the Most High, and he acts on them—in faith.

Now read Proverbs 3:5–6:

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

In Peter’s case, Yehovah is directing his path quite literally—from Joppa to Caesarea. Peter doesn’t know it yet, but he can’t lean on his own understanding because his own understanding is the very thing Yehovah is expanding.

Have you ever had a Peter moment like that? You know the next thing you need to do, but you can’t explain how all the pieces fit together. You would like a little more information before you move. Maybe a lot more information.

Peter had a direct instruction from the Holy Spirit. For you, the next step may be something Scripture has already made clear. You don’t have to understand everything before you obey what you do understand. Take that next faithful step, and keep praying, studying, and asking questions about what you haven’t worked out yet.

What Would You Be Thinking on That Road?

Peter leaves Joppa with Cornelius’s messengers, and they arrive in Caesarea the following day.

I would love to know what was going through Peter’s mind during that journey. Scripture doesn’t tell me, so I can’t tell you either. But put yourself on that road for a moment.

You’ve seen a vision three times. You’re still trying to understand it when unexpected visitors arrive. The Holy Spirit tells you He sent them and instructs you to go with them. Now you’re traveling toward the home of someone you normally would have avoided.

That is a lot to carry down the road.

Perhaps Peter replayed the vision in his mind. Maybe he talked with the men about Cornelius. I can imagine him beginning to connect some things as he walked—but that is Stephanie according to Stephanie. I don't have a verse telling me what Peter thought along the way.

But I bet he was excited! This is huge. He has received a puzzling vision, the Holy Spirit has spoken to him, and three strangers have shown up to take him to a Gentile's home. That's a lot to take in.

I know that when I have been on the cusp of something incredible Yehovah is doing in my life, I can feel it in my spirit—the anticipation, the excitement. I don't know what's coming, but I know it's coming, and it's going to be big.

Just based on what I know about Peter, I suspect he was pretty fired up.

What I do know is Peter's explanation of his vision when he reaches the house.

On the housetop, he is wondering. Inside Cornelius's home, he can say what Yehovah has shown him. Somewhere between those two points, his understanding has grown—and so has he.

Sometimes understanding follows obedience. You take the step Yehovah has made clear, and He continues teaching you as you go.

Let Peter Explain His Vision

When Peter enters the house, he finds Cornelius with his relatives and close friends. There are people waiting to hear what Yehovah has given him to say.

Peter tells them:

“God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean” (Acts 10:28).

Listen to Peter explain his own vision. He doesn't say, *Yehovah showed me that unclean animals are now food*. He says Yehovah showed him not to call any **person** common or unclean.

People are the issue Peter names. And look where he is standing as he explains it—inside a Gentile's house.

The picture Yehovah gave him has brought him face-to-face with the people he needed to see differently.

Peter tells them it was considered unlawful for a Jewish man to keep company with or visit someone from another nation. That boundary could have kept him outside the very house Yehovah sent him to enter.

But before assuming that boundary came from Torah, look for the command itself. Peter doesn't identify one here. You need to examine the difference between what Yehovah commanded and what people came to understand or practice.

Have you ever assumed something came from Scripture because it was what you had always been taught?

I have. You've already heard part of that story.

That can be uncomfortable to examine, especially when the teaching came from someone you love and trust. It doesn't mean they intended to mislead you. They may have passed along what they sincerely believed. But you still have a responsibility to open your Bible and examine it for yourself.

Peter's understanding needed correction, and he allowed Yehovah to correct it. Now he is standing in a place he once would have avoided, speaking to people he might otherwise never have reached.

There Are People on the Other Side of Your Response

Peter's willingness to learn affects more than Peter. Cornelius has gathered people he cares about, and they are waiting for the words Yehovah has sent Peter to bring.

Imagine if Peter had decided he already knew enough.

What if he had refused to go because the invitation challenged something he believed? What if he had been so certain he was the teacher that he couldn't recognize Yehovah teaching him?

There is a house full of people on the other side of his willingness to listen.

Think about that in your own life. What Yehovah helps you understand may become part of someone else's answer to prayer. Your willingness to study,

reconsider an assumption, and obey His direction can affect people you haven't even met yet.

That doesn't make you the center of their story. Yehovah is doing the work. But it does give you a reason to pay attention when He is working on you.

Never become so convinced that you are the person Yehovah sent to teach that you forget He may be teaching you, too.

Prayer

Yehovah, keep me teachable. Help me obey what Your Word has made clear while I continue learning. Show me where something I've assumed or always been taught is keeping me from seeing clearly or treating people as I should. Give me humility to ask questions, patience to keep studying, and courage to take the next step. And when You send me to help someone else, help me recognize what You are teaching me, too. Amen.

What Do You Notice?

1. Follow Acts 10:17–23 in order. What is Peter still trying to understand? What instruction does he receive, and what does he do?

2. What does Peter say Yehovah showed him in Acts 10:28? How does his explanation help you understand the vision?

3. Put yourself on the road from Joppa to Caesarea. What would you be thinking? Which details can you point to in Scripture, and which are things you're imagining?

4. What understanding could have kept Peter outside Cornelius's house?
What changes in his response?

5. Is there something you have always believed but have never examined carefully in Scripture? Where could you begin?

6. What has Scripture already made clear that you can obey while you continue studying something you haven't fully understood?

Lesson 3: Walk Through the Door and Hear the Whole Message

Read Acts 10:24–48 and Acts 11:1–18.

The Messenger Is Still a Man

Peter has arrived. Cornelius has gathered his relatives and close friends, and everyone is waiting to hear what Yehovah has sent him to say.

But before Peter begins, something happens that I don't want you to miss. Cornelius falls at his feet and worships him. Peter lifts him up and says, "Stand up; I myself also am a man" (Acts 10:26).

Peter knows who sent him, and he knows he is still a man. He has a message to bring, but he isn't the One Cornelius needs to worship.

Remember that when someone helps you understand Scripture. You can appreciate their teaching, respect their service, and be grateful Yehovah brought them into your life. But keep your faith rooted in the One who sent them. The person helping you see should be pointing you toward Yeshua.

Cornelius tells Peter what happened: the fasting and prayer, the angel's appearance, and the instruction to send for him. Now Peter gets to hear what Yehovah was doing on the other end of the bridge.

Can you imagine listening to that after everything Peter has just experienced? A vision, an instruction from the Holy Spirit, a journey—and now this man is explaining why he sent for him.

Then Cornelius says they are all present before Yehovah to hear everything Peter has been commanded to tell them.

The people are ready. Peter opens his mouth.

Listen to What Peter Brings Into the Room

“Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34).

Peter is speaking from an understanding Yehovah has been opening. He is standing inside a Gentile’s house, looking at people who fear God and want to hear. The lesson from that housetop has faces now.

Then he tells them about Yeshua.

Read Acts 10:36–43 carefully. Peter speaks about Yeshua’s ministry, the good He did, and the people He healed. He speaks as a witness, tells them about His death and resurrection, and explains that He is the appointed Judge of the living and the dead. He tells them that the prophets bear witness to remission of sins through His name for those who believe in Him.

There is a message here that I don’t want you to hurry past on your way to what happens next.

Cornelius has been seeking Yehovah. He has fasted, prayed, and sent for Peter. Now he and the people he gathered are hearing about Yeshua and the forgiveness of sins through His name.

Think back to Acts 11:14. Peter would bring words through which Cornelius and his household would be saved. This is why the messenger came.

A deeper relationship with Yehovah includes hearing what He has to say and responding to it. Cornelius didn’t send for Peter just to admire the fact that an angel had visited him. He was ready to hear the message.

Peter Doesn’t Even Get to Finish

While Peter is still speaking, the Holy Spirit falls on those hearing the Word (Acts 10:44).

There it is. Yehovah has been preparing both men for this encounter, and now something happens in the room that Peter and the believers with him cannot ignore.

The Jewish believers who accompanied Peter are astonished. Why? Because the gift of the Holy Spirit has been poured out on Gentiles, too.

Verse 46 tells you what they hear: speaking with tongues and magnifying God.

Put yourself in that room for a moment. You came with Peter into a house you might previously have avoided. You're listening to him preach about Yeshua, and suddenly these Gentiles are receiving the Holy Spirit.

Yehovah is showing you something right in front of your eyes.

In Acts 11:15–17, Peter compares what happened in Cornelius's house with what happened to them at the beginning. He recognizes the same gift. The people he once would have kept at a distance have received the Holy Spirit just as they did.

Peter had explained that Yehovah showed him not to call any person common or unclean. Now Yehovah demonstrates what He is doing among those very people.

The vision was preparation. Then Yehovah gave Peter time to digest what he had seen, even while he was still trying to understand it. Then He brought Peter right into the middle of the lesson he needed to learn.

Have you ever counted someone out, only to discover that Yehovah was already working in their life? Maybe you knew their history. Maybe they came from a background you didn't understand. Maybe you simply didn't expect them to be interested.

Cornelius was praying before Peter knew his name.

Remember that before you decide whom Yehovah can reach. You may arrive thinking you're bringing the lesson and discover that you're part of it, too. You may realize that you still have some things to learn.

And Then Peter Commands Baptism

After hearing them speak with tongues and magnify God, Peter asks:

“Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?” (Acts 10:47).

Then he commands them to be baptized in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:48).

Commands.

I want you to notice that word and the order of what has happened. These people have already received the Holy Spirit. Peter knows it. The believers who came with him have witnessed it.

And he commands baptism.

If receiving the Holy Spirit made water baptism unnecessary, why did Peter command it here? And if you have been taught that believing or praying a “sinner’s prayer” means you don’t need to be baptized, how does that teaching fit with Peter’s command?

Go back and read those verses before answering. What does Peter ask? What does he tell them to do? Let his response help you examine what you have understood about baptism.

Then compare Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:38–41, Acts 8:12–17, and Acts 19:1–7. Follow each account carefully. Notice what the people hear and what they do next.

And no one announces, *Wonderful! I’ll put you on the list for Baptism Sunday next month.*

Peter commands baptism. Acts 10 doesn’t give the exact interval before it happened, but it gives you his instruction plainly. In Acts 2:41, the people are baptized that same day. In Acts 8:36–38, the eunuch sees water, asks about baptism, and the chariot stops.

Hearing leads to action.

That is part of a Peter moment, too. You can be moved by what you hear, excited about what Yehovah has done, and still have something He is calling you to obey.

Cornelius’s story doesn’t stop with the angel. Peter’s doesn’t stop with the vision. And this encounter doesn’t stop with everyone recognizing that the Holy Spirit has fallen.

There is a response to make.

Now Other Believers Have a Moment

You might think that after everything that happened in that house, Peter could return to Jerusalem and everyone would simply rejoice.

But some believers challenge him.

Their objection is that he entered the home of uncircumcised men and ate with them (Acts 11:2–3). The very boundary Yehovah had addressed with Peter is now being raised by others.

Peter has something to explain.

And look at how he does it. He begins at the beginning and tells them what happened in order. He explains the vision, the arrival of the messengers, the Holy Spirit's instruction, and the six believers who accompanied him. He tells them about the angel's message to Cornelius and what happened when he began speaking.

Peter helps them follow the road that brought him to this understanding.

That matters when you're explaining something you've recently learned. The person listening hasn't necessarily read every verse you've read or followed every connection you've made. You may be excited because the pieces have come together for you, while they are still trying to understand the first piece.

Remember Peter wondering on the housetop. Give someone else room to ask questions.

Peter then asks, "What was I, that I could withstand God?" (Acts 11:17).

After hearing his explanation, they stop objecting and glorify God, acknowledging that He has granted Gentiles repentance unto life (Acts 11:18).

They have had something to reconsider, too.

Peter's moment has reached beyond Cornelius's house. The people hearing his testimony now have an opportunity to let Yehovah expand their understanding.

What Will You Do With What You Hear?

There are several responses in this account. Cornelius welcomes the message. Peter recognizes what Yehovah has done and commands baptism. The believers in Jerusalem hear Peter's explanation and reconsider their objection.

Where do you recognize yourself?

You may be the person waiting to hear more. You may be the one explaining what Yehovah has helped you understand. Or you may be the person hearing something that challenges a belief you have held for years.

In any of those places, keep your Bible open and remain teachable.

And if you are the one being drawn deeper into your relationship with Yehovah, don't be surprised when some of the people around you give you pushback. The changes in you may challenge their understanding of their own walk, and that can make people uncomfortable. You don't have to force them to agree—that's not your job. You can show them Scripture and answer their questions, but ultimately, the action they take in response is between them and Yehovah.

Your job is to stay the course.

If you're explaining, help the person follow the Scripture. If you're listening, examine what is being shown to you. And when the Word makes something clear, consider what obedience requires of you.

The goal isn't to prove you know the truth. The goal is to help someone else see it.

Peter came to Cornelius's house with a message. He left with a testimony about what Yehovah had done among people he once would have avoided.

The teacher was still learning. And because he was willing to learn, other people had the opportunity to hear.

Prayer

Yehovah, help me hear what You are saying and respond to what You make clear. Keep my faith rooted in You, and help me appreciate the people You send without making them the center of my faith. Give me patience when I'm explaining and humility when I'm listening. Show me where I have counted someone out, and help me recognize Your work in their life. Let what I learn lead to obedience and help me bring truth to others with care. Amen.

What Do You Notice?

1. Read Acts 10:25–26. How does Peter respond when Cornelius falls at his feet? What does that show you about the place of a human messenger in your faith?

2. What does Peter tell the household about Yeshua in Acts 10:36–43? What would you miss if you hurried straight to what happened afterward?

3. Why are the believers who came with Peter astonished? What do they hear that shows them the Gentiles have received the Holy Spirit?

4. Read Acts 10:47–48. What does Peter command after the household receives the Holy Spirit? How does that help you examine what you understand about baptism?

5. Compare the baptism accounts listed above. Write down what happens in each and the order in which it happens. What do you notice?

6. Follow Peter's explanation in Acts 11:4–17. How does he help the others understand? What could you learn from his approach when explaining something to another person?

7. What changes between Acts 11:2–3 and Acts 11:18? When Scripture challenges an objection you have held, how do you respond?

Lesson 4: Receive Instruction That Takes You Farther

Read Acts 8:26–39, Acts 18:24–28, and Acts 19:1–7.

There Is Room for Another Question

Peter and Cornelius aren't the only people who needed help seeing farther. Throughout Scripture, people encounter something that challenges their understanding and calls for a response. Once you start noticing these Peter moments, you can't unsee them.

The details don't always look the same. Sometimes someone asks for help. Sometimes another person notices a gap and comes alongside them. Sometimes a question opens a conversation they didn't know they needed. But again and again, someone has an opportunity to receive more understanding—and a decision about what to do with it.

Gee, do you think Yehovah might be telling you something?

Let me introduce you to a few more people having a Peter moment. As you listen, pay attention to how they receive instruction and how they respond. Put yourself beside them. You may recognize yourself in more than one of these encounters.

The Seeker Who Welcomes a Guide

The Ethiopian eunuch has traveled to Jerusalem to worship. Now he is on his way home, sitting in his chariot and reading Isaiah.

Here is another man already seeking Yehovah before the messenger arrives.

An angel directs Philip toward the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. Then the Holy Spirit tells him to go near the chariot. Philip runs to it, hears the man reading, and asks:

“Understandest thou what thou readest?” (Acts 8:30).

That is a good question. You can read the words, even read them aloud, and still need help understanding what they mean.

Imagine someone asking you that while you’re reading your Bible. How would you receive the question? Would you hear an invitation to talk, or would you feel the need to prove that you already understood?

The man answers, “How can I, except some man should guide me?” Then he invites Philip to come up and sit with him (Acts 8:31).

Look at that invitation. He has room beside him, a portion of Scripture in front of him, and a question he wants answered. He could have said, *No thanks. I’ve got it. I don’t need any help*, and sent Philip on his way.

But he doesn’t.

He admits he needs guidance and makes room for someone to help. I see hunger and humility in that response. He wants to understand more than he wants to appear as though he already does.

Have you ever hesitated to ask a question because you thought you should know the answer? Maybe you’ve been in church for years. Maybe you teach, lead prayer, or help other people study. Admitting that you don’t understand can feel uncomfortable or even embarrassing.

Take a look at that feeling. What makes the question difficult to ask? Maybe someone has made you feel foolish for asking before. Or maybe pride is whispering that you should already know and that admitting otherwise would damage your image.

Whatever is making you hesitate, look at where this man’s honesty takes him.

He asks whether Isaiah is speaking about himself or someone else. Philip begins with that very Scripture and preaches Yeshua to him (Acts 8:34–35). The question opens a conversation that takes him farther than he understood when he opened the scroll.

Then they come to water.

“See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (Acts 8:36).

He is still asking questions, but now the question is about responding to his Peter moment. He has heard something that calls for action, and he wants to act.

The chariot stops, Philip baptizes him, and afterward the man goes on his way rejoicing.

Think about where this encounter began: *Do you understand what you’re reading?* His willingness to say, *I need help*, made room for instruction. When he understood, he responded.

What question have you been carrying that you need to ask?

The Teacher Who Can Still Learn

Now meet Apollos.

Scripture describes him as eloquent and mighty in the Scriptures. He is instructed in the way of the Lord, fervent in spirit, and teaching diligently. These are substantial things to say about a man.

But there’s this one little detail: he knows only John’s baptism (Acts 18:24–25).

Apollos has knowledge, ability, and enthusiasm. He also has something he needs to understand more fully. Like Cornelius, there is more for him to receive.

Does that sound familiar? Peter isn’t the only teacher still learning.

Priscilla and Aquila hear Apollos speaking boldly in the synagogue. They take him to themselves and explain the way of God more accurately (Acts 18:26).

Put yourself in his place. You know Scripture. You’re speaking boldly and teaching diligently. Then someone comes alongside you with something you haven’t understood.

What do you do with that?

I would love to have heard their conversation. Apollos has much to offer, and here he is receiving fuller instruction. The next verses show him continuing in ministry, helping believers, and demonstrating from Scripture that Yeshua is the Christ (Acts 18:27–28).

There is room for both things in his life: he can teach, and he can learn.

So when someone comes to you, attempting to help you understand something you missed, how will you respond? Will you dismiss them immediately, or will you open your Bible and examine what they're showing you?

I'm not telling you to accept every teaching from every preacher. Examine what you hear against Scripture. Look at the context and the other verses that help you understand it.

But don't automatically reject a teaching because it disagrees with what you currently believe. If someone is showing you Scripture in context, take the time to look. Don't assume you know it all, because no one does.

Receiving instruction doesn't erase everything you already know or make every good thing you've taught worthless. It gives you an opportunity to become more faithful in what you bring to others.

And if you are the person who notices something missing, look at Priscilla and Aquila's approach. They take Apollos to themselves and explain. There is a conversation here and a person to help.

Before you decide how to correct someone, consider what you want to accomplish. Do you want them to understand, or do you want an audience to see you correcting them?

Remember my first conversation about the Sabbath. There was truth I needed to examine, but the way it was brought to me made me want to get as far from the subject as possible.

Your manner matters. Speak clearly and in love. Open the Scripture, and give the person room to ask questions. You may be helping someone through a Peter moment that will affect everyone they teach afterward.

The Disciples Who Respond to More Truth

In Acts 19, Paul arrives in Ephesus and meets some disciples. He asks:

“Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” (Acts 19:2).

Their answer opens a conversation. They tell him they have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.

Paul asks another question: “Unto what then were ye baptized?” They answer that they were baptized unto John's baptism (Acts 19:3).

Now put yourself among those disciples. Someone has just asked you about something you haven't understood. Can you imagine glancing at the person beside you? *Have you heard about this?*

That is me picturing the moment, but you know how it feels when a question reveals that there is something important you don't know. Suddenly, you have a question of your own: *What do I do with this information?*

Watch what these men do. They answer Paul, listen to his explanation, and respond. In effect, their actions say, *Tell me more.*

Notice how Paul's questions help him understand where they are. He listens to their answers, then addresses what they need to hear. He explains that John baptized with the baptism of repentance and told people to believe in the One coming after him—Yeshua.

Then look at verse 5:

“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

When they heard, they responded. The understanding they received became something they acted on.

Paul lays hands on them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them, and they speak with tongues and prophesy. Scripture tells you there were about twelve men (Acts 19:6–7).

Here are people who have already responded to what they understood. Now they hear more, and they respond to that, too.

That is where I see hunger for a deeper relationship. They don't treat what they already received as a reason to refuse what Yehovah is bringing them next.

What about you? It is possible to spend decades on a pew and become comfortable enough that you stop expecting to grow. Being present becomes the routine, and the hunger that once brought you there gets pushed aside.

Have you become satisfied with where you are? When Scripture shows you something you haven't understood, does it stir a desire to go deeper, or does it feel like an interruption?

These disciples let the conversation continue.

Have you ever heard someone say, *I've already been baptized*, as though that settles every question about baptism? These men had been baptized, too. Paul asked about it, explained what they needed to understand, and they acted on what they heard.

Their previous experience didn't close the conversation.

You may have an experience that matters deeply to you. You may have acted sincerely on what you understood at the time. But when Scripture shows you more, will you examine it?

These disciples were willing to receive instruction that took them farther. Their response gives you something to consider about your own.

Which Person Sounds Like You?

The Ethiopian eunuch knows he needs guidance and asks for it. Apollos is already teaching when someone helps him understand more accurately. The disciples at Ephesus answer Paul's questions, hear his explanation, and respond.

Different people, different circumstances, and more to learn in every encounter.

Perhaps you're the person with a question you've been afraid to ask. Perhaps you're comfortable teaching what you know, but less comfortable when someone offers to teach you. Or perhaps something in Scripture is asking you to reconsider an experience you thought had settled the matter.

You don't have to pretend you've understood everything. Open your Bible, ask the question, and give yourself room to examine the answer.

And remember that someone else may need that same room from you.

Philip begins with the Scripture the man is reading. Priscilla and Aquila explain what Apollos needs to understand. Paul listens to the disciples' answers and addresses what is missing.

Each encounter involves paying attention to the person in front of them.

You can do that, too. Before you assume you know what someone believes, ask. Before you decide they won't listen, give them an opportunity. And when you are the one receiving instruction, remember how much can happen when you're willing to say, *Help me understand*.

There is always more to learn. Let what Yehovah helps you see lead you into a faithful response.

Prayer

Yehovah, give me courage to ask questions and humility to receive help. Keep me from becoming so comfortable with what I know that I stop listening when You have more to show me. Help me examine what I hear in Your Word and respond faithfully. When someone comes to me with questions, help me listen carefully, speak with kindness, and point them toward You. Amen.

What Do You Notice?

1. Read Acts 8:30–35. What does Philip ask, and how does the eunuch respond? What does the man’s invitation make possible?

2. Have you ever felt embarrassed to ask a question about Scripture? What made it difficult, and what could help you ask it honestly?

3. Look at Acts 18:24–26. What strengths does Apollos already have? What does he still need?

4. How do Priscilla and Aquila approach Apollos? How would you want someone to approach you if there were something you needed to understand more clearly?

5. Follow Acts 19:1–7. What does Paul ask? What do the answers reveal, and how do the disciples respond to his explanation?

6. Which of these encounters feels most familiar to you? What does it help you recognize about the way you receive instruction?

7. When you help someone else study, how can you make room for their questions while keeping the conversation rooted in Scripture?

Lesson 5: When Certainty Needs Correction

Read Acts 9:1–22, Acts 22:3–16, and John 3:1–21.

Being Certain Doesn't Always Mean Being Right

So far, you've met people who welcomed instruction, asked questions, and responded when Yehovah showed them more. But what happens when someone is so convinced they are right that they are actively opposing the very One they believe they are serving?

Meet Saul.

He is heading toward Damascus with authority to arrest followers of the Way and bring them bound to Jerusalem. This isn't a disagreement over coffee. People are being threatened, imprisoned, and harmed.

And Saul believes he is on the right side of it.

In his later testimony, he describes his religious upbringing, training, and zeal toward God, then tells how he persecuted followers of the Way (Acts 22:3–4). He has reasons for what he believes. He has people backing him. He has authority to act.

He also has a Peter moment coming.

Before you follow him down that road, consider something: the strength of your conviction does not establish its accuracy. You can feel deeply committed to a belief and still need correction. You can defend it passionately and still misunderstand the Scripture you're using to support it.

That is why examining what you believe matters. Ask what it rests on—and look at what it leads you to do.

The Road Saul Didn't Expect to Take

Saul is approaching Damascus when a light from heaven suddenly shines around him. He falls to the ground and hears:

“Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” (Acts 9:4).

Saul asks who is speaking.

“I am Jesus whom thou persecutest” (Acts 9:5).

Think about that answer. Saul has been pursuing the followers of Yeshua. Now Yeshua confronts him personally about what he has been doing.

Put yourself there for a moment. You set out certain of your purpose. You believe you know whom you're serving and what needs to be done. Then the Lord interrupts you and reveals that the people you have been attacking belong to Him.

What are you supposed to do with that?

Saul receives instructions to go into the city, where he will be told what he must do. When he gets up, he can't see. The people traveling with him take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus.

He still reaches the city, but look at the condition he's in as he arrives.

The man who intended to take others into custody for what he believed were offenses against Yehovah now needs someone to take him by the hand. The man carrying authority to act must wait for further instruction. For three days, he is without sight and doesn't eat or drink.

Now, while all this is going on with Saul, Yehovah calls on a disciple in Damascus, Ananias. He tells Ananias that Saul is praying and where to find him (Acts 9:11).

I wonder what those prayers sounded like. Scripture doesn't give me the words, but imagine what Saul has to bring before Yehovah after that encounter. His understanding of Yeshua, his treatment of the disciples, and the purpose of his journey have all been confronted.

This Peter moment reaches into everything he has been doing.

When Zeal Needs Direction

It would be easy to look at Saul and think, *Well, I've never done anything like that.*

But before you move past him, consider the question his story puts in front of you: could something you regard as faithfulness actually be opposing what Yehovah is doing?

Perhaps you have dismissed a person before hearing them. Perhaps you have defended something because it was familiar, without examining whether Scripture supports it. Perhaps your determination to correct someone has carried you into words and behavior that need correction themselves.

Those situations are different from Saul's persecution, but his account gives you a reason to examine your own certainty.

Being sincere doesn't mean that you're right, and it doesn't remove the need to be teachable. Having religious training doesn't mean that you can't be in error. And having people agree with you doesn't mean there is nothing left to examine—or learn.

Saul has to receive direction from the One he has misunderstood. He also has to receive help from someone belonging to the community he has harmed.

Which brings me to Ananias.

Because while Saul is praying, Yehovah is working on the other end of the bridge again.

Ananias Has a Question

Yehovah calls Ananias in a vision and tells him to go to the house where Saul is staying. He even tells him what Saul has seen: a man named Ananias coming and laying hands on him so he can receive his sight (Acts 9:10–12).

Saul is being prepared to receive help. Ananias is being sent to bring it. But Ananias knows something about Saul, and it isn't good.

“Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem” (Acts 9:13).

He also knows Saul has authority to arrest those who call on the Lord's name.

Can you blame him for bringing that up?

Imagine receiving an instruction to visit the very person you know has been harming believers. You have heard the reports, and now you're being told to walk into the house where he is staying.

Ananias's concern has a real basis. He brings it to the Lord, and the Lord gives him further direction. Saul is a chosen vessel who will bear His name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel (Acts 9:15).

Ananias knows what Saul has done. Yehovah tells him what He intends to do through Saul. There is more happening in that house than Ananias could know from the reports he has heard.

Brother Saul

But Ananias is obedient to Yehovah, so he goes. He enters the house, lays his hands on Saul, and says:

“Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me” (Acts 9:17).

Brother Saul.

I don't want you to hurry past those words. The man who came to Damascus to arrest disciples is being addressed by a disciple as brother. Imagine hearing that welcome after the encounter on the road and those three days without sight.

Ananias explains that he has been sent so Saul can receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately, something like scales falls from Saul's eyes. He receives his sight, rises, and is baptized (Acts 9:17–18).

Then the account shows him spending time with the disciples in Damascus and preaching about Yeshua.

Look at how much has changed since the beginning of the chapter.

Saul arrived intending to take believers away. Now he is among them, receiving help and proclaiming the One they follow.

And Ananias has taken part in that change because he listened, brought his concern to the Lord, and obeyed the direction he received.

Both men had a response to make.

You can take someone's harmful actions seriously while remembering that Yehovah can move on them and they can change. Ananias had a specific instruction to go to Saul. His account doesn't ask you to ignore danger, but it does ask you to leave room for Yehovah to work beyond what you already know about a person.

The Teacher Who Comes With Questions

Now turn to John 3 and meet Nicodemus.

He is a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews. He comes to Yeshua by night and acknowledges that His works bear witness to God's presence with Him.

Nicodemus knows a great deal. But the conversation quickly brings him to something he doesn't understand.

Yeshua tells him that a person must be born again to see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus asks how someone can be born when he is old. Yeshua speaks of being born of water and of the Spirit, and Nicodemus asks:

“How can these things be?” (John 3:9).

Have you ever read something and found yourself asking exactly that?

Yeshua responds, “Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?” (John 3:10).

Here is another teacher who needs teaching.

Put yourself in Nicodemus's place. You are accustomed to knowing, explaining, and answering. Now you're the one asking how something can be. That can be uncomfortable and humbling. It can also become the beginning of understanding—if you keep listening. I wonder whether coming by night made it easier for a man in his position to ask those questions (John 3:2).

John 3 doesn't give you Nicodemus's final response to that conversation. It leaves you hearing his questions and Yeshua's instruction. For now, notice that his position and knowledge have not removed his need to learn.

If you have a question you feel you should already know how to answer, bring it to the Word. Ask for help. You don't have to protect the appearance of understanding at the expense of actually receiving it.

Where Do You Recognize Yourself?

Saul is certain and needs correction. Ananias is concerned and needs direction. Nicodemus has questions and needs understanding.

Where do you recognize yourself?

Perhaps you are holding firmly to something you haven't examined in years. Perhaps Yehovah is asking something of you, and your concerns are real. Or perhaps you're reading Scripture and realizing how much you still need to understand.

Bring that honestly before Him.

Saul's certainty did not make him right. Ananias's concern did not have to keep him from obeying. Nicodemus's position did not mean he already understood everything Yeshua would teach him.

And whatever you bring into your Peter moment, you still have a response to make. Open your Bible. Examine the belief. Ask the question. Bring the concern to Yehovah. When His direction is clear, act on it. You may discover that the correction you needed becomes part of how He prepares you to help someone else.

Saul would go on to teach many people. But on the road to Damascus, and in the house where Ananias found him, he first had to receive instruction himself.

The teacher was still learning before he ever began teaching them.

Prayer

Yehovah, show me where my certainty has outrun my understanding. Help me examine what I believe and recognize where I need correction. When I am concerned, help me bring that honestly before You and listen for Your direction. When I don't understand, give me humility to ask and patience to learn. Keep me responsive to Your Word, and help me recognize Your work in people I might otherwise overlook. Amen.

What Do You Notice?

1. Compare Saul's purpose in Acts 9:1–2 with his actions in verses 18–22. What changes in his understanding and behavior?

2. Read Acts 22:3–4. What does Saul's testimony show you about religious training, zeal, and the possibility of being wrong?

3. Is there a belief you have defended strongly without recently examining its foundation in Scripture? What would help you examine it honestly?

4. What concerns does Ananias bring before the Lord? What further direction does he receive, and how does he respond?

5. Read Acts 9:17. What stands out to you about Ananias's words to Saul? How might that welcome have mattered?

6. What is Nicodemus struggling to understand in John 3? Have you ever hesitated to ask a question because you thought you should already know the answer?

7. Which feels most familiar right now: Saul's certainty, Ananias's concern, or Nicodemus's questions? What would a faithful next step look like for you?

Lesson 6: Your Response to a Peter Moment

Read Acts 10:28–33, Acts 11:17–18, Proverbs 3:5–6, Acts 17:11, and 1 John 2:3–6.

So What Are You Going to Do With This?

You've spent some time with people whose understanding needed to grow. You've stood beside Peter on the housetop, entered Cornelius's house, climbed into a chariot, and followed Saul toward Damascus.

Where did you recognize yourself?

Maybe you understand Cornelius's hunger for more. Maybe you've felt like Peter, trying to make sense of something Yehovah is showing you. Perhaps you've had a question you were embarrassed to ask, or you've been so certain you were right that it took quite an interruption to get your attention.

You may have recognized yourself in several places. I know I have.

But now the question comes back to you: what are you going to do with what you've seen?

It's possible to enjoy a Bible story, appreciate the lesson, and then close your Bible without allowing any of it to reach your own life. You can recognize Peter's assumptions without examining yours. You can admire Cornelius's readiness while quietly deciding there are some things you'd rather not hear.

So before you move on, bring the question home. Has something in the Word challenged your understanding? Is there something you need to examine more

closely? And if Yehovah has helped you see something clearly, what response does it require?

Keep Your Heart Open and Your Bible Open

Don't let yesterday's understanding veto what Yehovah is showing you today through His Word.

His Word hasn't changed. You may be seeing something you missed, or discovering that what you thought a verse meant doesn't fit what it says in context. That can be unsettling, especially when you've believed something for years.

I understand that. My attachment to tradition didn't disappear the first time someone mentioned the Sabbath. It took study, questions, conversations, and a willingness to examine what I'd been taught. I had to stop and say, "*Maybe there's something more than what I know now.*"

Then I had to act on that.

Read Acts 17:11. The people in Berea received the word readily and searched the Scriptures daily to see whether what they were hearing was true.

Look at those two things together. They were willing to listen, and they examined what they heard. You can have an open heart and an open Bible at the same time.

You don't have to accept a teaching just because someone delivers it confidently. You also don't need to reject it immediately because it challenges what you believe. Give it an honest hearing, then look at the Scripture.

Who is speaking? Who are they speaking to? What's happening before and after the verse? What other Scripture helps you understand it?

And here's a question worth asking yourself: *Am I reading what's on the page, or am I reading what I've always been told is there?*

Take your time with that. If you still have questions, keep studying. Ask someone who can help you examine the Scripture. You don't have to pretend you've reached a conclusion when you haven't.

But when the Word does make something clear, don't keep reaching for another question just to postpone your response.

Give Your Hunger Somewhere to Go

Cornelius wanted to hear more, so he sent for Peter and gathered people. Peter received instructions, so he welcomed the messengers and went with them. The eunuch invited Philip into the chariot. The disciples at Ephesus acted on Paul's explanation. Ananias went to Saul.

Their responses took them somewhere.

What about yours?

You can say you want a deeper relationship with Yehovah, but that desire needs somewhere to go in your daily life. What are you doing with what He's already helped you understand?

Read 1 John 2:3–6. Knowing Him is connected to keeping His commandments. Abiding in Him calls you to walk as He walked.

That brings the question out of the realm of *Wasn't that interesting?* and into *What needs to change?*

Maybe there's a command you need to obey. Maybe you've realized that an assumption has affected how you treat someone. Perhaps you need to ask for help, return to a subject you've avoided, or make time to study instead of relying on what someone else says.

Name it. Be specific enough that you know what taking the next step would look like.

"I need to grow" is a good recognition. But what will you do when you wake up tomorrow? What will be different about the way you use your time, respond to someone, or act on the Scripture you've read? How will it affect your prayer life?

Your Peter moment needs a response you can live.

Someone Else May Be Waiting

There was a house full of people waiting for Peter. Saul was waiting for Ananias. The Ethiopian eunuch was reading when Philip came alongside him.

None of those encounters began with the messenger knowing every detail of what Yehovah was doing. And you'd better believe Yehovah had His hand in every one of them—even before the people involved understood what He was arranging.

Remember that when you're wondering why something keeps drawing your attention back to prayer or study. What you're learning may help someone you haven't even met yet. A question you take time to examine may prepare you for a conversation down the road.

That doesn't mean every thought is an assignment or every person needs a lesson from you. It does give you a reason to stay attentive to Yehovah and faithful with what He's placed in front of you.

Sometimes you're the person receiving help. Sometimes you're the person being sent.

And sometimes you arrive ready to explain something, only to discover that Yehovah has arranged a lesson for you, too.

Peter can tell you about that.

Don't Miss What Happens Along the Way

Peter's understanding didn't arrive all at once. He saw the vision, wondered about it, received instruction, and went with the men. By the time he stood in Cornelius's house, he could explain what Yehovah had shown him.

Then the Holy Spirit fell on the people hearing the Word, and Peter had more to recognize. Later, he returned to Jerusalem and helped others understand what had happened.

His Peter moment unfolded through a process.

Yours may, too.

You may see something clearly today and spend the next several weeks learning how to live it. You may understand why a practice needs to change before you've worked through the conversations that change will bring. You may need patience as you study and humility as you realize how much you'd assumed.

Don't become so focused on where Yehovah is taking you that you miss what He's teaching you on the way.

The answer matters. So does what happens in you while you're learning to follow Him more faithfully.

Are you becoming more willing to listen? More careful with your words? More patient with someone who's asking the same questions you asked? Are you

learning to bring your concerns to Yehovah instead of letting them make every decision for you?

Pay attention to those things. They belong to your growth, too.

Take the Step You Can See

Go back to Proverbs 3:5–6. Trust Yehovah, acknowledge Him, and let Him direct your path.

Peter didn't have to explain the whole encounter before leaving Joppa. He needed to obey the instruction he'd received. Ananias didn't know everything Saul would become. He needed to go to the house Yehovah had named.

What has the Word made clear to you?

Start there. Keep praying about what you don't understand, keep examining the Scripture, and act on what you do understand.

You don't have to wait until you can answer every question someone might ask. You do need to remain teachable as you move forward. Having a Peter moment doesn't mean you've finished learning. It means you've encountered another opportunity to grow.

Sometimes Yehovah sends you through the door for the people inside. Sometimes He teaches you as you enter. Look at Peter and Cornelius, and you can see both happening in the same house.

So what are you going to do with your Peter moment?

Prayer

Yehovah, thank You for continuing to teach me. Help me recognize where my understanding needs to grow and be honest about the questions I still have. Give me willingness to obey what You've made clear instead of putting it off. Keep me attentive to what You're teaching me along the way, and give me patience with others who are learning, too. Whether I'm receiving help or bringing it, keep me a faithful disciple whose life reflects Your Word. Amen.

What Will You Do Next?

- 1. Think of something Scripture has challenged or helped you understand more clearly. What did you believe before, and where did you learn it?

- 2. Which verses have confirmed, corrected, or expanded your understanding? Write them down and explain what you see in your own words.

- 3. What questions do you still have? What Scripture could you examine next, or who could help you study those questions?

- 4. Where have you recognized a Peter moment in your own life? How did you respond?

5. Is there something you already understand but have been putting off acting on? What would taking the next step look like?

6. What might Yehovah be teaching you while you work through the questions, decisions, or conversations connected to your Peter moment?

7. How could you help someone else examine Scripture without making them dependent on your conclusions?

Lesson 7: Walking Forward in Your Peter Moment

Read James 1:19–27, 1 John 2:3–6, Colossians 3:12–17, and 2 Timothy 2:24–26. Return to Acts 10:25–28 and Acts 11:1–18. Also read Matthew 10:5–16.

You’ve Seen It. Now What?

You’ve read the verses, asked questions, and started connecting things you hadn’t understood before. Something has clicked. Maybe you’ve even had one of those moments when you look up from your Bible and think, *How did I miss that?*

Now you want to tell somebody.

I understand that excitement. When something opens up in Scripture, you want someone else to see it, too. You may also be wondering what this is going to require of you. What needs to change? How will you explain it to your family? What will happen when someone asks why you’re doing things differently?

Bring those questions to Yehovah. Then pay attention to what His Word has already made clear.

James 1:22 tells you to be a doer of the Word. He compares hearing without doing to looking at your face in a mirror, walking away, and forgetting what you saw. Picture that. You’ve looked closely enough to notice something that needs attention, then you walk away and leave it exactly as it was.

What happens when you do that with Scripture? You see something about your conduct, your attitude, or your obedience. You recognize it while your Bible is open. But will it affect the decision you make after you close it?

Cornelius sent for Peter. Peter went with the messengers. When the Holy Spirit fell on the household, Peter commanded baptism. What Yehovah showed them called for a response.

Your Peter moment does, too. And part of that response is how you carry what you've learned into your relationships with other people.

The Verse About Your Conduct Still Applies

Read 1 John 2:3–6 again. Knowing Him is connected to keeping His commandments, and abiding in Him calls you to walk as He walked. That reaches into more than the subject you've just been studying. It reaches your words, your choices, and the way you treat the person who disagrees with you.

Before James tells you to do the Word, he tells you to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. He says human anger doesn't produce the righteousness of God (James 1:19–20). Those instructions are worth remembering when you've discovered something important and want everyone else to understand it immediately. You've studied. You've prayed. You can see the connection now. Why can't they?

Well, remember how long it took you.

Or maybe it didn't take you all that long. You still have to give another person room to grow.

Think about three babies that are the same age. One starts crawling before another. The third may be busy pulling up on furniture while the others are moving across the floor. They're the same age, but their development doesn't look exactly alike.

You wouldn't get angry with a baby for needing more time to learn. So why become impatient when someone needs time to process biblical information that challenges beliefs or traditions they've held for years?

I'm not suggesting you treat an adult like a baby. I'm asking you to remember that understanding doesn't unfold at the same pace for everyone.

Give them room.

The person in front of you may be hearing something for the first time. They may have questions you've already worked through or concerns you haven't considered. They may feel the same attachment to tradition that made it difficult for you to listen.

And you may be feeling some frustration of your own. Perhaps you're wondering why no one showed you this before. Maybe you feel let down by someone you trusted. Bring that honestly before Yehovah. You can examine what you were taught and address what was wrong without allowing resentment to take over the way you speak.

Before you decide how to explain what someone else has gotten wrong, look at how you're treating them. Does that reflect the Lord you want them to know?

If your defense of biblical truth produces unbiblical fruit, there's something else you need to bring before Yehovah.

Sometimes He uses these very encounters to reveal things in you that need to change. You thought you were there to explain a verse, and suddenly your impatience, pride, or need to have the last word is standing right in front of you.

There's another Peter moment.

You don't get to set aside His instructions about your conduct while defending His instructions about something else. James brings the tongue right into his discussion of religious devotion (James 1:26). Your words matter, including the ones you use when you're convinced you're right.

Remember Being the One With Questions

Read Colossians 3:12–14.

Look at what you're told to put on: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, and love. Now picture the person you find most difficult to discuss Scripture with.

Yes, that person.

Those instructions still apply.

You can hold a conviction firmly and speak with care. You can explain why obedience matters and listen when someone tells you what they're struggling to understand. Patience gives you room to help them examine the truth rather than pushing them away before they've had a chance to see it.

Remember Peter on the housetop. He needed time to understand. Remember the eunuch inviting Philip into the chariot and Apollos receiving a fuller explanation. Someone helped them.

When you become the person offering help, remember what it felt like to be the one with questions.

Second Timothy 2:24–25 joins the ability to teach with gentleness and patience. The Lord’s servant isn’t to be quarrelsome. Even correction is to be offered with meekness, recognizing that repentance is something Yehovah grants.

So examine your approach. Are you helping someone understand, or are you trying to wear them down until they stop disagreeing? Are you using intimidation or shame to get them to comply?

Be honest with yourself.

The goal isn’t to prove you know the truth. The goal is to help someone else see it.

Give them Scripture to examine. Answer their questions as well as you can. If you need to look something up, say so. You don’t lose your usefulness because you don’t have every answer ready.

Don’t make disciples of yourself. Help them follow Yeshua. If their conviction depends entirely on you being there to tell them what to believe, keep helping them understand the foundation in the Word.

You want them to be able to open their Bible and see it for themselves.

You’re Still a Disciple

Go back to the moment Cornelius fell at Peter’s feet. Peter lifted him and said, “Stand up; I myself also am a man” (Acts 10:26).

Peter knew he had been sent, but he also knew who he was.

Carry that humility with you. Being the person who knows an answer doesn’t put you above the need for instruction. You haven’t graduated from being a disciple because you’ve understood something new.

Peter had preached at Pentecost, and Yehovah still had something to teach him on that housetop.

So keep your Bible open. Keep asking questions. When someone points out a verse you hadn’t considered, give them the same careful hearing you hope someone will give you.

That may be easier to say than to do, especially when you've become comfortable being the one who explains things. But the person listening to you deserves a teacher who's still willing to learn.

And remember what happened when Peter returned to Jerusalem. He had to explain the encounter to people who questioned him. He began at the beginning and told them what had happened in order.

You may need to do that, too.

Someone else hasn't followed every step that brought you to your understanding. Help them follow the path. Show them the verses, explain the connections, and give them time to examine what you're saying.

Their questions may even show you where your own explanation needs more work. Stay teachable on both sides of the conversation.

Let Holiness Reach the Ordinary Moments

It's one thing to talk about patience while you're reading Colossians. It's another to practice it when someone interrupts your explanation, repeats a question, or makes a remark that gets under your skin.

That's where what you've learned needs to show up.

Walking in holiness reaches into those ordinary moments. It affects how you answer, whether you listen, and what you do when you realize your own attitude has gone sideways.

If you've spoken harshly, take responsibility. If you've treated someone as though their questions were a nuisance, make room to hear them. If you've discovered a command you need to obey, begin putting it into practice.

And understand this: you can explain, reason from Scripture, and urge someone to respond, but you can't make their decision for them. Your responsibility is to bring the Word faithfully and handle the person with care. Their response is something they must answer to Yehovah for.

Sometimes you become so wrapped up in delivering the message that you start beating the person with the Bible, so to speak. You're emotionally invested and passionate. Then frustration takes over, and the conversation wanders right off the path of holiness and into the weeds.

You're still quoting Scripture, but look at how you're behaving.

Give the information. Answer the questions. Listen carefully. Pray for them. But take your hands off the wheel when you start trying to control their response.

You can care deeply without taking over a decision that belongs to them.

Before You Start Shaking Dust Everywhere

In Matthew 10, Yeshua sends the Twelve to the lost sheep of the house of Israel to proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. He gives them instructions about entering towns and homes, and He also tells them what to do when people refuse to receive them or hear their words:

“And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet” (Matthew 10:14).

They weren’t instructed to stay and argue until someone gave in.

But before you start shaking dust everywhere, read the next verse. People often stop before they get to this part:

“Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city” (Matthew 10:15).

That is a serious warning about rejecting the message Yeshua sent His disciples to bring. Read it in the setting of their mission. It isn’t a threat to throw at someone because they disagree with you or need time to examine what you’ve said.

But it should make you take the responsibility of bringing His Word seriously.

You’re speaking to a person whose response matters. Handle the Word and the person with care. They may reject the truth after hearing it faithfully, but don’t give them an unnecessary obstacle through your harshness, pride, or contempt.

Remember my first conversation about the Sabbath. The truth still needed to be examined, but the delivery helped close a door that should have been opened.

It isn’t enough to teach what Yeshua says about holiness. You have to live it in the conversation you’re having. You don’t have to settle every question today. You do need to respond faithfully to what the Word has made clear.

And when you fall short, bring that before Yehovah, too. Receiving correction is part of continuing to grow. You’ve spent time watching Peter, Saul, and others respond when their understanding needed attention. Don’t be surprised when Yehovah shows you something about yourself that needs attention as well.

Be grateful He helped you see. Then act on it.

Keep Walking

Think back to where this began: a man praying in Caesarea and an apostle praying in Joppa. Neither knew everything Yehovah was arranging.

Cornelius was ready to hear. Peter was willing to go. Yehovah worked on both ends of the bridge, and their lives met in a house where people were waiting for truth.

You may recognize yourself in Cornelius today and in Peter tomorrow. You may need help understanding one portion of Scripture and be able to help someone else with another.

In either place, remain a disciple.

Keep seeking Yehovah. Let His Word examine your understanding and shape your conduct. Obey what He makes clear, and remember the person in front of you when it's your turn to explain.

There is always more to learn. There are also things you already understand that are ready to be lived.

So take your next faithful step. When your turn comes to receive help, stay teachable. When your turn comes to bring it, bring the truth with the care you once needed.

Let your Peter moment lead you farther into a life that reflects Him.

Prayer

Yehovah, thank You for helping me see more clearly. Help me live what I've learned. Guard my words and show me where my attitudes need correction. Give me patience with the person who's still asking questions, and keep me willing to ask my own. Help me bring Your Word faithfully without trying to control someone else's response. Let my obedience, humility, and love reflect You as I keep walking. Amen.

What Will This Look Like in Your Life?

1. Read James 1:22–25. What have you understood that you now need to act on? Describe one specific response.

2. How do James 1:19–20 and 26 speak to the way you discuss a conviction? Is there a habit in your words or attitude that needs attention?

3. Which instruction in Colossians 3:12–14 do you most need when speaking with someone who disagrees with you? What would practicing it look like?

4. What does 2 Timothy 2:24–25 ask of the person bringing correction? What belongs to Yehovah rather than to your ability to persuade?

5. Think of someone who helped you learn. What about their approach made it easier to listen? How could you offer that same care to someone else?

6. Read Matthew 10:5–16. What were the Twelve sent to proclaim? How do the instructions about rejection help you think about speaking faithfully without trying to control someone's response?

7. Finish these sentences in your own words: *The next thing I need to obey is...* *The attitude I need to bring before Yehovah is...* *The person I need to treat with greater care is...*

Scripture Reference Guide

Main account: Acts 10–11.

Companion accounts: Acts 8:26–39; Acts 9:1–22; Acts 18:24–28; Acts 19:1–7; Acts 22:3–16; John 3:1–21.

Supporting Scripture: Proverbs 3:5–6; Malachi 3:6; Matthew 10:5–16; Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38–41; Acts 8:12–17; Acts 17:11; Galatians 1:8; 1 John 2:3–6; James 1:19–27; Colossians 3:12–17; 2 Timothy 2:24–26.

Keep these portions of Scripture close as you continue reading and asking questions. When you need to check a detail or follow a connection, go back to the whole account. Read carefully, pray, and give the Word room to work in your life.

Go Deeper

Keep your Bible open. There are connections worth following a little farther, and you don't have to chase every one of them in a single sitting. Choose a few questions, read the whole account, and write down what you notice. If you're talking these through with someone, give each other room to ask another question. Let the Word do more than settle a discussion. Let it reach the way you live.

Lesson 1 — The Person Yehovah Sees

1. Read Acts 10:2–6 alongside Acts 11:13–14. What does Yehovah acknowledge about Cornelius, and what does He still intend for him to receive? How do both parts help you understand the encounter?
2. Compare Cornelius's response in Acts 10:7–8 with his words in verse 33. What connects his readiness to hear with his willingness to act?
3. Follow the angel's instructions in Acts 10:3–6 and Philip's instructions in Acts 8:26–35. What work is entrusted to the human messenger in each account?
4. Imagine you're helping someone who prays faithfully but hasn't understood something important in Scripture. How could you honor their devotion while still showing them what they need to hear?

Lesson 2 — When the Teacher Is Learning

5. Read Acts 10:14–20, 28, and 34–35 in order. Track what Peter says, what he questions, and what he eventually understands. Which verse explains the meaning he gives the vision?
6. Compare Proverbs 3:5–6 with Peter's response in Acts 10:19–23. How can trusting Yehovah lead to action while you're still working through a question?
7. Read Malachi 3:6 in its setting. How does knowing Yehovah's faithfulness help you approach a difficult portion of Scripture? What other Scripture would you compare before reaching a conclusion?
8. Peter's experience didn't remove his need to learn. What habits could help a teacher remain open to correction after years of helping others?

Lesson 3 — Hearing the Whole Message

9. Trace Peter’s message in Acts 10:36–43. How does he connect Yeshua’s ministry, death, resurrection, judgment, and remission of sins? Explain those connections in your own words.
10. Compare Acts 10:44–48 with Acts 11:15–18. What does Peter emphasize when he recounts the encounter, and why does that matter to the people listening?
11. Read Acts 2:38–41, Acts 8:12–17, Acts 10:44–48, and Acts 19:1–7. What actions recur? How can you acknowledge the different sequences while taking every instruction seriously?
12. Put yourself among the believers listening to Peter in Acts 11. What evidence would you need to examine before changing an objection you felt certain was right?

Lesson 4 — Making Room for Instruction

13. Read Isaiah 53:7–8 and Acts 8:30–35. What question does the Ethiopian eunuch bring to the text? How does Philip begin with what the man is actually reading?
14. Compare Acts 18:24–28 with Acts 19:1–7. What does each account say about John’s baptism, and what further instruction is needed? Keep the details of the two encounters distinct.
15. Look at Philip, Priscilla and Aquila, and Paul. How does each conversation begin? What could you learn from those approaches when someone’s understanding is incomplete?
16. If someone asked you a question you couldn’t answer, how could you keep the conversation open while taking time to study it honestly?

Lesson 5 — When Certainty Meets Correction

17. Compare Saul’s testimony in Acts 22:3–5 with his encounter in Acts 9:1–9. How could he be zealous toward God while acting against Yeshua’s followers?
18. Read Acts 9:10–18 carefully. What does Ananias know about Saul, what does Yehovah tell him, and what does Ananias do? How does the account hold together his real concern and his obedience?

19. Follow Nicodemus in John 3:1–21, John 7:45–52, and John 19:38–42. What can you observe about his words and actions across those accounts? What private thoughts does Scripture leave untold?

20. How would you examine a strongly held conviction if you discovered that your behavior toward people looked more like Saul’s persecution than Yeshua’s instruction? Where would you begin?

Lesson 6 — Giving Hunger Somewhere to Go

21. Compare Acts 17:11 with James 1:22–25. What does examining a teaching require? What does responding to the Word require after you’ve examined it?

22. Read 1 John 2:3–6. How does John connect knowing Him, keeping His commandments, and walking as He walked? What would those connections look like in an ordinary day?

23. Choose two encounters from Acts 8–11, 18, or 19. Follow the steps that brought the people together. What happened before anyone heard the full message?

24. What has changed in your understanding since you began reading? Explain the Scripture that led to that change, the questions you still have, and the response that is already clear.

Lesson 7 — Letting Truth Shape Your Conduct

25. Read James 1:19–27 as one connected portion of Scripture. How do listening, anger, obedience, speech, and care for others belong together?

26. Compare Colossians 3:12–17 with 2 Timothy 2:24–26. What qualities should be visible in a person bringing correction? Which parts of that work depend on Yehovah?

27. Read Matthew 10:5–16 in context. Who is being sent, to whom, and with what message? How does that setting help you handle the warning about rejection responsibly?

28. Think of a conversation that became an argument. Without explaining what the other person did wrong, examine your own words and actions against these Scriptures. What would you do differently now?

Bring the Connections Home

29. Compare Cornelius's readiness, Peter's assumptions, Saul's certainty, Ananias's concern, and Nicodemus's questions. Which response is most familiar to you today, and what Scripture helps you take the next step?

30. Write down one belief you inherited, where you learned it, and the Scripture you have examined for yourself. What does the text establish, and what have you assumed?

31. Choose one clear act of obedience for the coming week. When will you act on it, and how will you recognize whether what you've learned is reaching your conduct?

When It Is Your Turn to Help Someone

32. How would you explain a conviction to someone who has never followed the connections you've studied? Choose a starting verse and explain why you would begin there.

33. What could help you recognize the difference between someone asking an honest question and your own impatience with having to explain again?

34. If a person isn't ready to respond, how can you remain truthful, patient, and prayerful without trying to take control of their decision?

About THE BRIDGE

Building Bridges, Not Walls

THE BRIDGE was created for people who are asking difficult questions, examining what they have been taught, or simply longing for a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Yehovah. It is a place where questions are welcomed, Scripture is opened carefully, and truth is shared with patience, compassion, and room to grow.

We are not here to pressure you into an answer or win an argument. We want to help you see what Scripture says, understand it in context, and give the Holy Spirit room to work. The goal is not to build another wall between people. It is to build a bridge to truth.

A Deeper Walk

A Deeper Walk studies are for readers who want to move beyond quick answers. Each study makes room to examine Scripture closely, ask honest questions, and grow in both understanding and relationship with Yehovah.

About the Author

Stephanie Mayberry

Stephanie Mayberry is a Bible teacher, author, and co-laborer in ministry with her husband, Pastor C.W. Mayberry, at Torah Observant Apostolics. She has a particular heart for people who are asking difficult questions about what they have been taught and helping them turn to Scripture for the answers.

Her approach to teaching is simple: open the Bible, look at the context, ask good questions, and give the Holy Spirit room to work. She believes truth does not need to be forced, good fruit should always lead in not just teaching, but also correcting, and that helping someone see is far more important than winning an argument.

Stephanie is also the creator of Sabbath Kids, Apostolic Sabbath Keepers (ASK), and THE BRIDGE. She also writes and teaches on biblical obedience, spiritual growth, discipleship, and living a Spirit-filled life.

When she isn't writing, creating Bible studies or devotionals, teaching, building something for ministry, or chasing the occasional squirrel that turned into an entirely new project, she can usually be found with a strong cup of coffee nearby, talking to Yehovah about what's next and thanking Him for the rich, full life He has given her.

Stephanie lives in Louisiana with her husband CW, daughter Micah, and grandson Silas—and she considers the Oxford comma non-negotiable.

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