

# GUEST SPEAKER

Efrem Smith

## “When the Church Becomes A Bridge”

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Efrem Smith, Guest Speaker

### INTRODUCTION

Bridges get us from one place to another. Bridges connect us. But what happens when bridges collapse? Just as there are physical bridges, there are also human bridges, relational bridges and social bridges. The Bridge between Heaven and Earth collapsed because of sin. But God builds BRIDGES!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

God Builds BRIDGES

1. Read Acts 10:1-8. Describe Cornelius' occupation and his character. Why do you think God chose him?
2. Read Leviticus 11:1-8 and then Acts 10:9-14. Why do you think Peter was struggling with God's request?
3. Read Acts 10:15-16. What do you think God was trying to tell Peter?

God Raises Up Bridge People

4. Read Acts 10:19-23. Why is it so significant that Peter, a Jewish-born man who is now a follower of Jesus, has invited Cornelius' men into his home?
5. Read Acts 10:24-29. One of the greatest barriers to the spread of the gospel was the Jewish-Gentile conflict. Most of the early believers were Jewish, and to them it was scandalous to associate with Gentiles. What powerful new truth did Peter learn? How did it impact the spread of the gospel?

God Provides Bridges of Reconciliation

6. Read Acts 10:34-35. Talk about the significance of these two verses.

### CHALLENGE

We are called to be a bridge in a divided broken world. Ask God to reveal to you any broken bridges and ask Him to help you re-build. Then ask Him to show you where you can be a BRIDGE over troubled water.

### COMMIT TO MEMORY

I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. *Acts 10:34b-35*

### PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share prayer requests, and commit to praying for one another until you next meet.