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## 走出去 Stepping Out

經文：使徒行傳十：1-48。 Scripture: Acts 10:1-48

讀經文

如果你一直被告誡不能做某件事，有一天，這位告誡你的長輩或長官忽然要求你去做這件事，你會如何反應？ **How would you react if one of your seniors had been refrained you from doing something, but began to ask you to do that exact thing one day?**

讀 **v.10:1-16** 神賜給哥尼流和彼得異象時，他們在做同一件事，你能看出來嗎？ **Read 10:1-16. Cornelius and Simon Peter were doing the same thing when God gave them their vision. Can you find out what they were doing? Do you or do you know someone had a similar experience?**

使徒行傳的作者路加，在他所寫的兩卷聖經經卷中不斷強調禱告會帶來的改變。尤其在使徒行傳中，幾乎所有的重大事件，都是在為一件事持續禱告以後發生。（例如聖靈在五旬節降臨）從整本聖經中，則可以觀察到，大部分領受異象的時機，都是在安靜、專心尋求神時。（如施洗約翰的父親撒迦利亞，路 1:8-14） Luke, the author of the Book of Look and Acts, uniformly stress the transformation power of prayers. Almost all major events in Acts happened after someone's persistent prayers for something. (e.g., pour down of the Holy Spirit in Pentecost, Acts 2:1-4) From our observation through the entire Bible, a vision is usually given when someone (or a community) is seeking for God's in quietness. (e.g., Zachariah, father of John the Baptist, Luke 1:8-14)

讀 v.17-43。哥尼流和彼得都從他們原來的社會框架中走了出來。哥尼流是個羅馬軍官，應該信奉羅馬女神和羅馬皇帝，也不應該和次等的猶太人往來；彼得不但接待外邦人，還到外邦人的家裡，這都不該是他們的身份該做的事。你認為他們為什麼不顧別人的眼光，和當時社會的規範，也要做那些事？**Cornelius and Simon Peter both stepped out from their social norm. Cornelius was a Roman military officer. He should have worshiped the Roman Goddess and Emperor. He also shouldn't befriend the inferior Jews. In Simon Peter's case, he didn't only provide hospitalities for gentiles, and he even went into their house. Why do you think that they are willing to do things beyond their social boundaries, despite what others would think?**

哥尼流看神高過地上的政權；彼得看神高過人的傳統，甚至他從小到大都視為真理的傳統。這是出於他們對追求真理的勇氣。可以請組員分享自己有沒有因為追求真理而推翻自己曾經認為的真理的經歷。Cornelius recognized that God is higher than earthly authorities. On the other hand, Simon Peter places God ahead of human tradition—even the one he held as absolute truth from childhood. This is out of their determination to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Ask your group members to share if they had similar experiences of giving up something they always believed as the result of truth-seeking.

（請其中一位弟兄或姊妹讀 v.34-38, NIV 的版本）看來哥尼流和他所約來聽福音的人已經知道（v.36、38 都是 “You know;” cf. NIV）了很多關於福音的事，既然如此，為什麼聖靈還要他們去邀請彼得來講給他們聽呢？**If Cornelius and his friends already knew (v.36 and 38 both begin with "You know," Cf. NIV) so much about the gospel message, why did the Holy Spirit still want them to invite Simon Peter over?**

哥尼流和他的親友們可能聽過施洗約翰指著耶穌基督的預言，（v.37）也聽過基督所行的一切神蹟奇事，（v.38）或許也知道他被釘十字架，但卻不知道他已經從死裡復活。彼得在 v.39 指出他和其他的使徒親眼見證耶穌基督受死、復活、升天。他們也奉命要去傳道，繼續為耶穌基督做見證，使人信主。Cornelius and his friends might have heard the prophesy John the Baptist had spoken regarding Jesus Christ, (v.37) they might have known the signs and wonders that Christ did, (v.38) or even his crucifixion, but they don't know about His resurrection. Peter pointed out in verse 39 that he and other disciples are the eyewitnesses of the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. They received the commandment to spread the gospel, continue to witness and bring people to Christ.

## 反思與禱告 Reflection and Prayer

讀 **v.44-48**。雖然彼得在 **v.34** 說「我真看出神是不偏待人...」這句話，在聖靈還沒有賜給外邦人前，他卻不認為外邦人能領受聖靈、和他們一樣能說方言。（所以他和同行的人都感到驚奇，參考 **v.45**）我們有沒有對那一類、或哪一個人能接受救恩感到懷疑、甚至疑惑？又是否曾對某些人有和我一樣的屬靈經歷感到驚訝？為彼此禱告，求聖靈除去我們裡面的偏頗及歧視。讓我們像神一樣不偏待人。 **Read v.44-48. Read v.44-48. Despite making the statement that "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism..." in verse 34, (this is before the pouring out of the Holy Spirit to Gentiles) he didn't believe that gentiles would receive the Holy Spirit and be able to speak in tongues. (hence he and his group act astonished, cf. v.45) Are we feeling confused or doubting a certain individual or people's salvation, or feel surprised that someone had a similar spiritual experience with me? Pray for one another that the Holy Spirit will take away the prejudice and discrimination in me. Help us to be like God, who plays no favouritism on anyone.**