

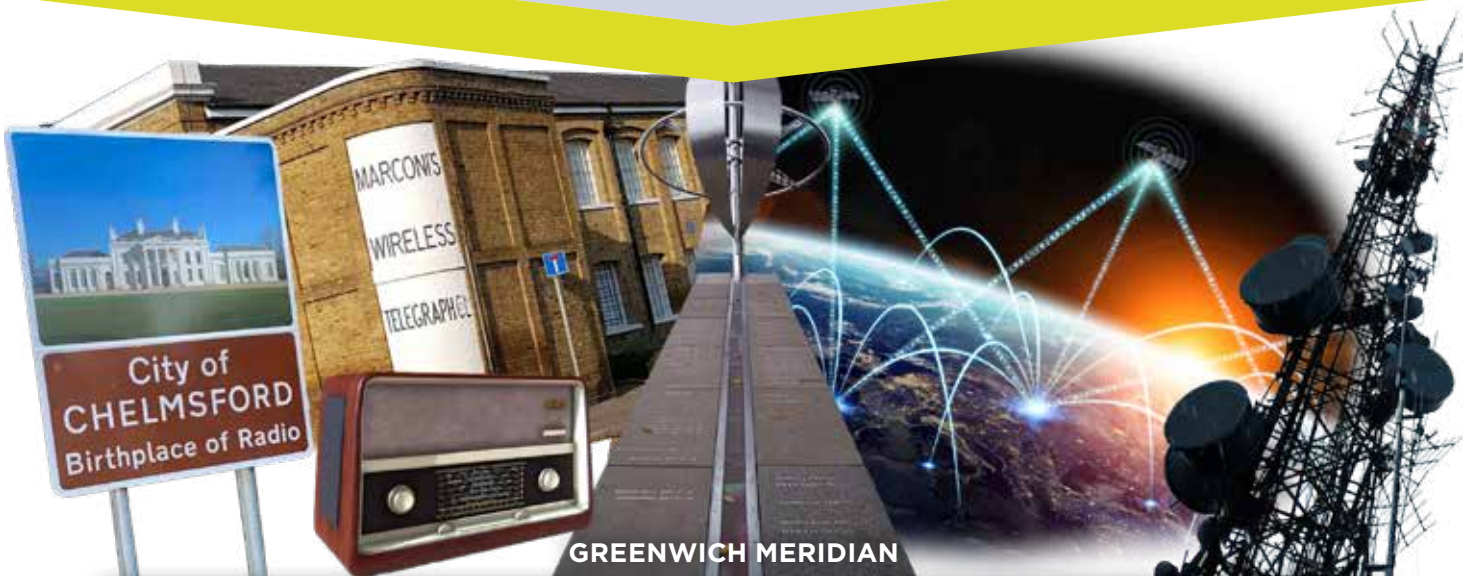


# *The* ROOFTOP

Joining Jesus in *His* Mission

**OCT 2.22**

## Personal Journal



Name:

[therooftop.org](http://therooftop.org)

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# WHAT IS 'THE ROOFTOP'?

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The Rooftop Movement began in a Virginia hotel room. Dennis Pethers, the founder and International Pioneer, was praying and listening to a colleague read aloud the story of Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10–11.

As the story was being read, Dennis was deeply impressed with what took place during Peter's encounter with God on the rooftop. This encounter was a pivotal moment in the history of the church.

Like Peter, we stand at another pivotal moment in church history. And the question remains: ***"What are we going to do at this moment in our history?"***

## A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Rooftop has its scriptural foundation in Acts 10 and 11. It is the story of Peter and Cornelius. This story has three key aspects:

1. Peter's Rooftop '**Encounter**'. As Peter was praying on the rooftop, he had a transformational encounter with God that revolutionized his understanding of the mission that Jesus had called Peter to join Him in.
2. As a result of the rooftop encounter, Peter went to the house of Cornelius to '**Engage**' with people outside the walls. Having encountered God and realized that he 'should not call unclean anything that God has called clean', Peter went to the house of a gentile and preached the gospel. He stepped outside of all that he had ever known to join Jesus in His Mission outside the walls.
3. As a result, the Kingdom could '**Expand**'. The gospel was set free from the constraints of Judaism and was now able to spread across the whole world—the good news of Jesus is for those beyond the walls.

### ***Jesus' Mission is for all the people of the world!***

Peter's encounter on the rooftop was a pivotal moment for the church. Had he not been on the rooftop (praying) where he received a fresh vision from God, he may never have joined Jesus in His mission outside the walls. He needed a fresh vision of God's passion for the lost to take him beyond what he had always known and to face a new reality.

Here was his new reality: He saw, for the first time, that God loves people who do not conform to all of the customs and traditions that he had always been familiar with!

### **For Peter, the rooftop encounter was a pivotal moment resulting in a shift of focus to those outside.**

The church today is at a similar moment. Previous generations have been raised within church contexts and have understood and were familiar with our customs and broadly accepted the truth of the gospel. Now, across generations there are increasing numbers of people who never attend church and know little or nothing about Jesus. It is a pivotal moment and we, like Peter, need to grasp a fresh vision of God's heart for the lost outside the walls.

We are living at a time of unprecedented change. The familiar ways and customs of the church are meaningless to the vast majority of people who are living in a world of global communication and connectivity. To reach those outside the walls today we cannot impose our customs and habits on them. We need to go to them, where they are 'outside of what is familiar'.

The Rooftop Encounter that you are participating in is part of The Rooftop Global Encounter that is taking place across the world. At 5pm local time in cities, towns, villages and online around the world, Christians are gathering to seek a fresh vision of God's heart for the lost and to ask Jesus how they can unite behind His mission as a global and local movement.

To see where The Rooftop Global Encounter is happening, visit [www.therooftop.org](http://www.therooftop.org) and click on Global Encounter.

## GENERAL COMMENTS

However large or small the gathering of people for your Encounter please be aware of the following:

- Throughout the Encounter, allow time and space for listening both to God and to one another. Periods of silence may be a very good thing as you open your heart and mind to God's presence among you and seek His heart.
- It is helpful to divide into small groups of no more than seven people and appoint one person-per-group as a leader/ facilitator for the reading/discussion and subsequent prayer parts of the Encounter.
- We have included suggested time allocations for each part of the Encounter. Please DO NOT feel bound by these, they are merely suggestions!
- This journal contains space for you to write down things that you sense God is saying during the encounter (*page 10*) and following the encounter (*page 10*).

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# THE ENCOUNTER

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**The purpose of this Encounter is to seek a fresh vision of God's heart for the lost which will result in a willingness for us to personally and collectively 'Join Jesus in His Mission'.**

## **Before breaking into small groups:**

**Begin your time together on the rooftop by asking God to remove any distractions and make you aware of His presence.**

This may be helped by using music/singing together/sharing of scripture.

While it may be very help to use music/singing, please don't make the Encounter into a 'Sunday worship service' containing numerous songs. Similarly, if scripture is shared please, don't follow this with a sermon. The purpose of the gathering is to Encounter God and seek a fresh vision of His heart for those outside the walls.

***(10 minutes)***

## **In small groups:**

Break into groups and spread out across the rooftop so that each group has space to look at the community/read the scriptures/discuss the questions/pray without disturbing the other groups.

As a group, read aloud the story of Peter and Cornelius that is included overleaf:

***(10 minutes)***

## Acts 10:1–11:18 (NIV)

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.

The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

### Peter's Vision

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house

was and stopped at the gate. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say." Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

### Peter at Cornelius's House

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.' So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to

come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

Then Peter began to speak: “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. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us

to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of

the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

## **Peter Explains His Actions**

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’ “I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

“The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

“Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’

“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

## **Having read the scripture**

Take some time to quietly look across the community.

*(15 minutes)*

## **Now, as a group**

Engage in the following questions/discussion.

*(30 minutes)*

These questions are designed to help you to 'see what the Lord sees' as He looks at the city and then to consider how we may connect with His vision and Join Jesus in His Mission. Please look for and listen to what the Lord is doing and saying as you Encounter God and discuss the following:

Discussion questions:

- What do you see as you look across the community, what kind of people are there?
- What do you think God sees as He looks at the community?
- What do you see Jesus doing in the community?
- What are some of our habits, attitudes and customs that are preventing us from joining Jesus in His Mission?
- What do we need to do to Join Jesus in His Mission to 'seek and to save what was lost'?

## **Following the discussion**

Take time to pray together as you keep your eyes open and look across the community. As you look at the places and consider the people that occupy them ask God to break your heart with what breaks His and to give you the eyes to see what He sees.

*(10 minutes)*

## **Following the time of open prayer**

There is a further and vitally important aspect of The Rooftop Global Encounter – a collective ACT OF UNITY.



# Collective Act OF UNITY

**While it is important for each individual to encounter God and receive a fresh vision of His heart for community, it is also critical that we learn what it means, as the church, to unite behind the mission of Jesus – His church joining Him in His Mission!**

Bring all the small groups together to form one large group consisting of all that are part of the gathering.

All together, read aloud the prayer that Jesus prayed for all who would follow Him:

*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that **all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us **so that the world may believe that you have sent me**. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me”.*

*John 17:20-23*

Then say together the words of the following prayer:

*Father, help us to knock down the walls that divide us and use the bricks to build bridges into our community. Amen*

Now pray together seeking *‘the glory’* of God that Jesus has given us, that we may be one and be brought to complete unity – **THEN THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT JESUS WAS SENT BY THE FATHER.**

As the group is now all together, please be willing to share what you experienced during the Encounter.

**WHILE YOU ARE ON THE ROOFTOP**

*Use the space below* to write down some things that you feel God has impressed upon you as you have been on the rooftop.

**AFTER YOU HAVE LEFT THE ROOFTOP**

As you have spent time seeking a fresh vision of God’s heart for the lost He may have spoken to you in a very personal and specific way or He may have deepened your passion for lost people. It often takes a little time for us to ‘hear’ what God has been saying to us.

*Use the space below* to write down anything that you feel that God has impressed upon you as a result of having been to the rooftop.

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# MOMENT TO MOVEMENT

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As Peter left The Rooftop following his encounter with God and went outside the walls, a global disciple-making movement was about to begin. We encourage all that have been part of the MOMENT of the Global Encounter to now become part of a MOVEMENT of Global Disciple making in our time.

## The Movement

The Rooftop is equipping disciples to make disciples in countries across the world.

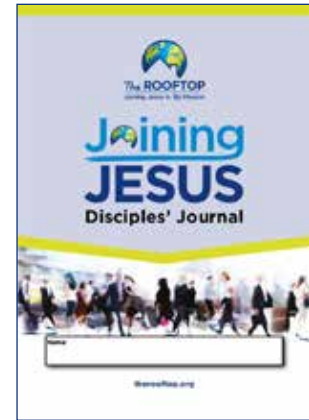
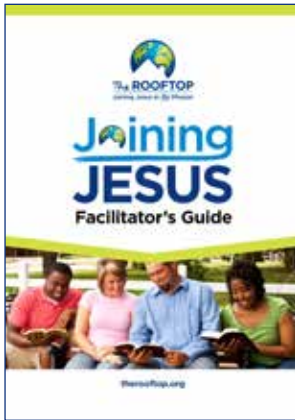


*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:18-20*

## Joining Jesus Materials

The Joining Jesus materials have been created to enable you to 'join Jesus in His Mission' by becoming and making disciples who make disciples outside the walls of the church.



There are a number of further equipping materials that can be used to equip Christians in HOW to engage in faith-sharing and disciple-making.



All of these materials are available to view and download at no cost on The Rooftop website: [www.therooftop.org](http://www.therooftop.org)

## The Rooftop TV

In addition to the materials that are available to download, we have launched The Rooftop TV.

The Rooftop TV is an online broadcasting channel that has been set up to equip Christians to become and make disciples who make disciples.

To find out more please visit [www.therooftop.tv](http://www.therooftop.tv)



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# NOTES

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*The* **ROOFTOP**  
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