



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month:

Marks of a Believer

Text for the Week:

Acts 10

Message for the Week:

“Breaking Walls; Building Bridges”

Theme for the Week:

God does not show favoritism, but accepts everyone who fears him.

Week 22

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

When was the first time that you encountered prejudice? How did you feel at the time? How did it impact your life?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read [Acts 10](#) out loud.

What words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Respond / Reflect:

Are there some types of people (ethnically, socially, economically, politically, age wise, etc.) who would not be welcome in your church or your home? Are there some practices you could change to remove those barriers? How would you feel about making those changes?

If God lowered a sheet in your dreams...who or what might be in it?

What are your prejudices? Can you identify them? Admit them? Address them?

What walls in our families, church, school, neighborhood, community, or city need to be broken? What bridges need to be built?

Where might we be saying "No" to God for the sake of "tradition?"

Are we willing to embrace God's preferred future by embracing people who are not just like us?

"Try It!"

Watch one of the movies or listen to one of these podcasts listed below as a family or small group. Talk about it together afterward. Visit <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/> to review these movies before viewing.

- Movie Options - [Just Mercy](#) [Ruby Bridges](#) [Hidden Figures](#) [Freedom Writers](#)
- A YouTube Option - Watch LaTasha Morrison [Be the Bridge: Racial Unity Table – IF: Gathering 2017](#)
- Podcast Option – The Antioch Podcast - <https://antiochpodcast.org/>

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer regarding the things God revealed and that you discerned in your time with God today.

Also, spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

God and Father of all, in your love you made all the nations of the world to be a family, and your Son taught us to love one another. Yet our world is riven apart with prejudice, arrogance, and pride. Help the different races to love and understand one another better. Increase among us sympathy, tolerance, and goodwill, that we may learn to appreciate the gifts that other races bring to us, and to see in all people our brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. Save us from jealousy, hatred, and fear, and help us to live together as members of one family at home in the world, sons and daughters of one God...through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. From the Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh: St. Andrew Press, 1994

Missional Practice for the Month: Wall Breaking / Bridge Building

A few times this month, engage in an activity that will help you break down a wall and build a bridge with someone who is different than you ethnically, socially, economically, politically, or in age. Some examples...

- Have a cup of coffee outdoors with a neighbor you don't know very well.
- Go for a walk with someone different than you.
- Take your kids to a playground in a different neighborhood.
- Get to know the parents on your child's sports team.
- Eat lunch with or hang out on break with a classmate you don't know very well at your school.