

## Acts 11:1-18

### Making all things new

Peter recounts his vision and encounter with Cornelius to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem, explaining that God is clearly working among the Gentiles, as evidenced by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Read this week's passage:



## Living Scripture

*'The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us.'* Acts 11:12

We are used to technology like phones and computers going out of date. Viruses or bugs that make them stop working or developers want to add new functionality. So, from time to time, we're prompted to update apps or upgrade the operating system. It is still the same phone, but suddenly its running like new, or even better.

Peter's reaction to the vision from God was shock and disgust. He was resistant to change. He couldn't fathom God updating his understanding or worldview. But when Peter sees the Holy Spirit's work in Cornelius and his household, he realises God wants to include the Gentiles in his saving work. Through it seemed new to Peter, God had been showing love to the nations throughout history. Peter's mindset was now upgraded and he could see what God was up to. God is making all things new. He doesn't throw out the old; he transforms us, heart, body and mind, to better fulfil his original purpose. Are there ways God wants to update your operating system? In what ways is God making you new and helping you see what God has been up to all along?

## First impressions

- What's your reaction to this image – disgust? Delight?
- What unusual food combinations do you enjoy/detest?
- What might God be asking you to 'make new' this season?



## Pray

God, who makes all things new, help us become more like Jesus. Help us to know when things need to change and give us the courage to do and see things differently. Amen.



## Discuss

Are there foods that you do not eat in your household? Or does someone have rules about how food must be presented and eaten? Talk together about how eating these foods makes you feel. How might Peter feel after being told he can eat all the foods that he has previously regarded as unclean?

## Read



an excerpt from *The Last Battle* by C S Lewis where he explores the idea of a world made new. Or if you know the story, you can listen to the chapter read.

## TRANSFORM

Is there something in your home that you could make new again? It might be that something needs a special clean, or you may even have something that you can upcycle together and give it a new lease of life!



Try and cook a meal together and include the whole family! Why not try to include something you've not tried eating before? Or perhaps try some unlikely food pairings.

