[13] "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. [14] BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

Acts of the Apostles

A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION EIGHT

Acts 9:32-11:18

Questions for Session Eight

1. During Peter's visit to the saints at Lydda whom did he encounter? What did the man need? How did Peter accomplish what the man needed him to do? What was the reaction of the people?

2. Who was Dorcas, and where did she live? What had she left as a legacy, and what had been her work? How did those in mourning contact Peter? Where was he?

3. Explain how Peter addressed the needs of (1) the paralytic in Lydda and (2) Dorcas who had lived in Joppa. How straightforward was his method for meeting their needs as individuals? How did the people react to both activities?

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4. Who was Cornelius, and where did he live? Explain his vision in detail and tell the significance of it.

5. Explain the significance of Peter's vision. How could the vision of Cornelius and the vision of Peter be related? Explain.

6. How open was Peter to the Holy Spirit? How open are we to the Holy Spirit and to the visions and instructions God might provide as a result? How integrated into Peter's life was God's presence?

7. Explain the reception Peter received when he followed the men back to the home of Cornelius. What did Cornelius want with Peter?

8. Explain the significance of Peter's presence in the home of Cornelius? What was the importance of his interaction with the people who were present when he arrived. What happened while Peter was there? Explain in some detail.

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9. Is God particular, with respect to race and gender, when he sends the Spirit? Try to imagine the differences of these people in the Church of the first century. How do we address the diversity in our own community as we spread the Good News?

10. As a result of all that had happened the word spread regarding Peter. How was Peter received by the church at Jerusalem? How did Peter explain the work of the Holy Spirit to the people there?

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