



## Introduction

God loves to bring change and He does so in unexpected ways. There is an 'ideal' that He wants for us and we need to have our belief systems shaken in order for us to align with His best for us. Looking at Peter as an example how does God bring change? What is His ideal and how does He use the gospel to shape us?

February 19<sup>th</sup> 2012

**Acts 10**

**"Shifting Beliefs"**

*Community Group Notes*

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## Explanation

Acts 9:32 – 43; Acts 10:34-43

- What was the change that God required of Peter? (Acts 10:34-35)
- Why was this change so difficult for Peter?
- Why was it so necessary?

## The Gospel

**Using these verses walk through and discuss the gospel in its simplicity**

- Rom 3:23;
- Is 64:6;
- Rom 6:23;
- Ez 18:4;
- 1 Jn 4:9-11 (ESV)
- 2 Cor 5:21
- Rom 5:7-11

Glen said: **"God is not content to show His just wrath and punishment. In His PERFECT love He sends His son to absorb the punishment."**

In the light of this statement and the verses above:

- Why does God have to be perfectly just and punish sin?
- Glen said - "God is perfectly just and perfectly loving" How does an understanding of His perfect justice highlight His perfect love?
- What does propitiation mean?
- Discuss some of the ways that the message of the gospel is a "belief shaker"

Paul *constantly* reminds Christians of the gospel in his writings – why? Isn't it just for people who don't know Jesus?

## Application

Glen said - "God communicates and changes us in so many different ways"

- How does He mostly communicate to you?
- What are other ways that He communicates and brings change?
- Why is it important He uses a variety of methods to communicate?

Do you have a “That Doesn’t Count” list that God has been challenging you about changing?

- How might these things be part of his belief system change for you?

The reminder of the gospel radically changed Peter’s belief system and caused Him to live differently.

- What can we do this week to remind ourselves of the gospel?
- What simple things can we do each day to align ourselves with God?

1. Spend some time praying (by name) for some of the people in your life who don’t know Jesus (yet).
2. Identify one person each that the group will pray for regularly (leaders – note down the names and remind the group each time you meet)
3. How is that group ‘social’ plan going?

### **What is a community group?**

Community groups are small gatherings of people that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community groups are an essential expression of the mission of The South. They’re a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They’re the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another towards the life that God intends for us.

Each community group is unique, shaped by its neighbourhood and the people who attend. However, you can expect a regular gathering in a residence to involve conversation, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, service in the neighborhood and probably something to eat!

At the heart of each community group is the desire to see an authentic community marked by love for Jesus, one another, and the neighbourhood.

### **Why should I join a community group?**

We are made for community and friendship. And when we are not living in community we suffer because life in a sinful world is too complex and tempting to journey alone. Therefore, community groups are a place where we can live in relationship with one another through the ups and downs of life.

### **How do I get connected to a community group?**

The easiest way to get connected is on Sunday: before or after the service, stop by Coffee Central. The volunteers will take your details and our coordinator will be in touch. Alternatively, you can fill out a ‘Comment Card’ (found in the back of the seats) and place it into the offering bag.

You can begin participating in the community of The South at any time, and we are glad to welcome you.