

## WAITING ON GOD – WEEK 3

**Warm-up:** Do you like surprises? How do you react to them? What was the last big surprise you had? Has God ever surprised you – share that with the group?

### Introduction

The last few years have brought big surprises - COVID, supply shortages, war in Europe, natural disasters. Any others? What have been people's reactions to these events? What was your reaction to these?

Throughout the bible God has acted in surprising ways.

Q1: What was surprising in the following cases and what did it lead to?

1. Moses and a burning bush – Exodus 3:1-3 and Deut 34:10-13.
2. Esther wins a beauty contest – Esther 2:16-17 and then 9:1 and 10:1-3
3. Jesus chooses 12 disciples – Luke 6:12-13.
4. Paul saw a vision of Jesus – Acts 9:3-6

Q2: What lessons can we learn about how God works from these events? (*Isaiah 55:8 - God's vision is always greater than ours – He often uses unexpected ways to fulfil His greater purpose*)

### Peter's vision

READ: Acts 11:1-18

This was a pivotal moment in the life of the early church and in the fulfilment of God's purpose for the world.

Q3: How is Peter portrayed in the gospels? (*Impulsive, outspoken, quick to commit but not to carry it through*).

Q4: How had God already been changing Peter? (John 21:15-19 and Acts 2:14-18)

Q5: What prejudice did Peter show by his reaction to the vision? What other reasons could there have been for God to show him the same vision 3 times (see Matt 26:75) – why was this a hard issue for Peter to grasp?

Q6: How did God confirm that the vision was from Him (Acts 10:19-22)? Is that your experience also?

Q7: What was the outcome from Peter's vision (Acts 11:18)?

### What about us?

Q7: What point was Pastor Ken illustrating with his monkey and the jar analogy?

Q8: Could there be things that we as a church are unnecessarily holding on to?

Q8: What should our attitude be in this transition period where we are waiting for God to speak to us?

Q9: What specifically does waiting on God mean for us (for you) during this transition? What should we be expecting? (Eph 3:20)

Q9: Are there things in your life that you are holding too tightly to? What is the danger for us if we do?