

## **The Key to Catalytic Change Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one way you've changed in the past 5 years?
2. Generally speaking, do you make decisions quickly or slowly?

**Read the following passage:** Acts 10:1-8, 23b-48.

Cornelius, a Roman centurion, represented everything the Jewish people hated: Roman power, Roman oppression, and Roman paganism. But in Acts 10, Cornelius' conversion became the catalyst that ignited the Gentile mission. In fact, when we meet Cornelius, Luke describes him as God-fearing, generous, righteous, a man of prayer, and respected by the Jewish people. What happened? Luke gives us a strong clue. When Peter spoke of the forgiveness available for everyone who believes in Jesus, the Holy Spirit broke out. Cornelius was looking for forgiveness. He had a repentant heart. Repentance opens doors that nothing else will.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. Repentance was a central element in the preaching of both John the Baptist and Jesus. Why is repentance so important in our relationship with God and our relationships with one another?
2. Read Ephesians 4:17-18. What keeps us from the life of God? How does ignorance strain relationships between different racial or ethnic groups in the church? Explain. How does ignorance hinder repentance?
3. Read Luke 10:25-37. Why do you think we are so often driven to justify ourselves? How does this affect the way we engage the subject of race and justice? How can we overcome this tendency toward self-justification?
4. An "idol" is anything that becomes more important to us than God. Common idols include money, power, comfort, our image, our career, our families, our people group, and the approval of others. How might the call to repentance feel like a threat to our idols?
5. Are there any areas related to race and justice in which you need to repent? Explain. Are there any other areas of your life in which you need to repent?
6. Read Luke 17:3b-4. Do you find extending forgiveness to be difficult? Explain.

**Pray**