

# GROUPS

sermon guide

## RIOTS & RIVALS - 08/24/2025 (Mike Wilson)

### MAIN IDEA

#### HOW TO RESPOND WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

### TALK ABOUT IT

- Can you share a time when you completely misunderstood something—funny or serious—and what happened when you found out the truth?
- How does starting from a critical heart affect our ability to hear from God—or from others?
- What might be behind a critical heart when we face something unfamiliar—fear, pride, insecurity, or something else? Why do you think that is?
- How have your own preferences or past experiences shaped the way you respond to things you don't initially understand?
- What does it look like to surrender those filters in order to really hear what God is doing?
- How can we recognize when our criticism is coming from a place of misunderstanding instead of discernment?
- Why do you think Peter chose to tell the story rather than argue or defend himself with logic? What does that teach us about how to communicate in conflict?
- What does it take to truly listen to someone's experience, especially when it challenges our assumptions or beliefs?
- How does seeing the fruit help us move from judgment to discernment? How do we distinguish between false fruit and real evidence of God at work?
- In your own life, where might God be calling you to listen before forming opinions? How can you make space for that kind of listening?
- Peter remembered Jesus' words in interpreting what he saw. What role does Scripture play in helping us process things we don't understand?
- How can we become better at recognizing what is "good" and of God—even if it's different from our expectations or traditions?
- What does this passage teach us about humility and openness when God moves outside of our framework?
- Which of the three responses—critical heart, listening, testing—do you struggle with the most, and why?

### KEY SCRIPTURES

Acts 10:24-48

### NEXT STEPS

- **ECOUNTER:**
  - Join us at one of our Sunday services: 8:30am, 10am & 11:30am
    - *Spanish interpretation during our 10:00am service*
- **EXPERIENCE**
  - **Seasonal Groups** - Registration will open August 31<sup>st</sup>. Check out our website for further details.
- **EXPAND**
  - Ready to take the next step? Allow us to help you plug into a **DREAM TEAM**. Reach out to Jill Thayer at [jillt@sagehillchurch.com](mailto:jillt@sagehillchurch.com) for information on serve opportunities.

### GOING DEEPER

- **Reflection:** What does your response to confusion or uncertainty reveal about where your trust is rooted—and how does that shape your ability to respond when you don't understand?
- **Journal:** Think of a time when you didn't understand someone else's decision, behavior, or spiritual experience. How did you respond—and what might a more Christlike response have looked like instead?
- **Application:** Identify one relationship, situation, or decision where you're tempted to react from frustration or assumption. This week, how will you practice a godly response—even if you still don't understand?