

# National Rooftop Day of Prayer



May 21, 2023

*The* **ROOFTOP**  
Joining Jesus in *His* Mission

## The Rooftop Encounter Facilitator's Guide

# WHAT IS ‘THE ROOFTOP’?

The Rooftop Movement began in a Virginia hotel room. Dennis Pethers, the founder and International Pioneer, was praying and listening to a colleague read aloud the story of Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10–11.

As the story was being read, Dennis was deeply impressed with what took place during Peter’s encounter with God on the rooftop. This encounter was a pivotal moment in the history of the church.

Like Peter, we stand at another pivotal moment in church history. And the question remains: ***“What are we going to do at this moment in our history?”***

## **A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE**

The Rooftop has its scriptural foundation in Acts 10 and 11. It is the story of Peter and Cornelius.

This story has three key aspects:

1. Peter’s Rooftop ‘Encounter’. As Peter was praying on the rooftop, he had a transformational encounter with God that revolutionized his understanding of the mission that Jesus had called Peter to join Him in.
2. As a result of the rooftop encounter, Peter went to the house of Cornelius to ‘Engage’ with people outside the walls. Having encountered God and realized that he ‘should not call unclean anything that God has called clean’, Peter went to the house of a gentile and preached the gospel. He stepped outside of all that he had ever known to join Jesus in His Mission outside the walls.
3. As a result, the Kingdom could ‘Expand’. The gospel was set free from the constraints of Judaism and was now able to spread across the whole world—the good news of Jesus is for those beyond the walls.

## **Jesus’ Mission is for all the people of the world!**

Peter’s encounter on the rooftop was a pivotal moment for the church. Had he not been on the rooftop (praying) where he received a fresh vision from God, he may never have joined Jesus in His mission outside the walls. He needed a fresh vision of God’s passion for the lost to take him beyond what he had always known and to face a new reality.

Here was his new reality: He saw, for the first time, that God loves people who do not conform to all of the customs and traditions that he had always been familiar with.

## **For Peter, the rooftop encounter was a pivotal moment resulting in a shift of focus to those outside.**

The church today is at a similar moment. Previous generations have been raised within church contexts and have understood and were familiar with our customs and broadly accepted the truth of the gospel. Now, across generations there are increasing numbers of people who never attend church and know little or nothing about Jesus. It is a pivotal moment and we, like Peter, need to grasp a fresh vision of God’s heart for the lost outside the walls.

We are living at a time of unprecedented change. The familiar ways and customs of the church are meaningless to the vast majority of people who are living in a world of global communication and connectivity. To reach those outside the walls today we cannot impose our customs and habits on them. We need to go to them, where they are 'outside of what is familiar'.

The Rooftop Encounter that you are participating in is part of the Korean Prayer Project that will be taking place the first week in June. Our prayer is that God will use these Rooftop Encounters to align our hearts with His heart for the cities we live in as we seek Him for revival and spiritual awakening in our lives and across our nation.

## **The Rooftop Encounter**

The Rooftop Encounter is a simple yet powerful moment in prayer designed to awaken us to God's heart for the lost and God's heart for us, His people, to return to Him. It is a time of being still before the Lord and listening as we ask Him to give us a fresh vision of His heart for the people we see daily and the city/state in which we live.

It is not a time to intercede, asking God to come and do a great work in our cities/states or bless our cities/states. The reality is God is already at work in our cities/states and He is already blessing in numerous ways.

The reason we are not experiencing revival and spiritual awakening is because our hearts are not aligned with His. For too long, we have been inviting God to join us in our mission instead of asking God how we can join Him in His mission.

Through The Rooftop Encounter, we ask God three pivotal questions:

- 1) What do You see when you look across our city/community?
- 2) Where are You at work in our city/community? We can't join Him if we don't know where He is at work.
- 3) What in my life is standing in the way of fully joining You in Your mission to transform lives and the places where we live? In other words, what is keeping me from engaging the lost, making disciples, stepping outside my comfort zone, being salt and light in our culture?

The Rooftop Encounter Personal Journal gives you a guide for leading The Rooftop Encounter. Reading the story of Peter and Cornelius is critical to the Encounter. Do not pass over it or read through the story quickly. Prior to reading the Scripture, we encourage you to give the background to this passage using the Biblical Perspective section in this guide.

If you have a large group (40+), we recommend that you divide people into groups of 6-8 to read the Scripture together.

## **Planning for The Rooftop Encounter**

Choose a place for your Rooftop Encounter. It could be a literal rooftop or a hillside, any high place where you can look out over your city. If there is not a high place in your area, find a place to observe your city; downtown, a city park, a street corner. Any place where you can watch, pray, and listen to God. Using a drone, make a video of your community for people to watch.

## **The Rooftop National Day of Prayer**

Thank you for joining with Christians from across the United States as we pray for God to give us a fresh vision of His heart for our cities and communities. As you prepare to be a part of this special day of prayer, consider the following suggestions:

- 1) Pastors, lead a Rooftop Encounter on Sunday afternoon with your people. Preach a message on Acts 10 in the morning service to help them more fully understand the significance of Peter's rooftop encounter with God in the life of Peter and the early church.
- 2) Bring churches together and have a Rooftop Encounter over your city. Let this day be a day celebrating our oneness in Christ and our calling to be the Church in the city.
- 3) Gather with friends and have a Rooftop Encounter as you pray over your community.
- 4) Gather as a family and have a Rooftop Encounter focusing on your neighborhood.
- 5) If you are a college student, take this opportunity to gather with other Christ-followers on campus and pray over your campus.

**If you have any questions or need assistance as you plan your Encounter, please contact John Whaley, the Lead Pioneer for The Rooftop North America.**

**Email: [johnwhaley@therooftop.org](mailto:johnwhaley@therooftop.org) Phone: 828.638.5655**