



You Need a Yoda

July 11, 2021

Acts 11:1-18

Connect:

- *Star Wars* is a cultural phenomenon. Grossing over 10 billion dollars at the box office, it sits in second place all-time behind the *Marvel* comic empire. If you're a fan, share what makes the *Star Wars* franchise so meaningful to you. Name a character or two that are favorites and explain why. If you're not a fan, speak to the influence of the franchise in our nation from an outside perspective. What does such popularity suggest about the needs of our society?
- Name a Yoda in your life – a mentor that you give credit for a major directional move in your life. Why did you decide to give their wisdom such weight in your decision making?

Engage

- Read *Acts 11:1-18*. Choose a phrase in this passage that most opens you to grow or learn more as your own faith matures. Share why you selected that phrase.
- This is a pivotal story in the growth of the Church. What implications are at stake for Peter making room for the Gentiles in the movement? What do such implications look like for us in our time and place?
- Peter wrestles with this truth of expansion and welcome to Gentiles just the same as Jews. He has dreams and visions and undoubtedly spent many a waking hour processing all he was experiencing. How do you wrestle with such theological concerns? Share a story of a way your faith expanded – whether through the changing of an embedded belief or the encounter with someone different than you.
- Len Sweet names the “H” trilogy as characteristics essential to healthy Yodas in your life: *Humility. Honesty. Honor.* Do you agree with these essential descriptors of healthy mentors? Why? Why not? What other traits might you add to the list?

Next Steps:

- If you've known a long time mentor in your life, pick up the phone or pen and paper and reach toward your Yoda with gratitude this week. If your Yoda is no longer alive, imagine a way to honor their presence in your life this week – if even via a simple act, reflection or kindness. Wisdom isn't intended to stop with you. It is meant to be freely shared. Pass it on!

Pray:

- *“Thank you, God, for putting wise people in our lives to guide us further into your Love. Open our minds that we might learn from them and our hearts that we might fully receive such truth. In humility of our own experiences, help us share those learnings forward with others, not for our glory, but for yours and for their growth as your followers. Amen.”*