

Discussion Questions

October 6, 2024

Acts 11

God Empowers Nobodies to Change the World



1. Read Acts 11:1-2. Peter is criticized after returning from Connelius' home and the Jewish Christians seem to act similar to the Pharisees who were persecuting them. Discuss what was their problem and in what ways is this kind of religious spirit present today?
2. Read Acts 11:19-26. This is the first time the gospel has been intentionally shared with Gentiles and it is done first by unknown believers. Discuss what is the significance of this?
3. Antioch was a city known for depravity and had just experienced massive hatred and bloodshed between Jews and Gentiles, yet this is the location God uses as the launching pad for His church when Jewish Christians are reaching the Gentiles. Discuss ways this example is relevant for the church today?
4. How does God use Barnabas to be a blessing to this church?
5. What does it look like for us today to carry on the ministry of Barnabas in the church?
6. Read Acts 11:27-30. In what ways does the generosity of the Antich church break societal norms and cross cultural divides in demonstrating the way of Jesus? What are examples of what that looks like today?
7. God's movement in Acts 11 broke traditional Jewish customs. Can you think of current traditions or practices in the church that might need re-examining to reach more people for Christ? What steps can we take to make sure we're open to what God wants to do today in our communities?
8. Share who your one or two people are that are not currently following Jesus that you are intentionally praying for and pursuing. Pray for those people in groups.

Acts 11:19-30 (NLT)

19 Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews. 20 However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. 21 The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord. 22 When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. 24 Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. 26 When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.) 27 During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.) 29 So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. 30 This they did, entrusting their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.

Acts 11:1 (NLT)

Soon the news reached the apostles and other believers in Judea that the Gentiles had received the word of God.

Acts 11:2 (NLT)

2 But when Peter arrived back in Jerusalem, the Jewish believers criticized him. 3 "You entered the home of Gentiles and even ate with them!" they said.

Acts 11:18 (NLT)

When the others heard this, they stopped objecting and began praising God. They said, "We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life."

Acts 11:19 (NLT)

Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews.

Acts 11:20-21 (NIV)

Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 11:22-24 (NLT)

When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. 24 Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord.



Acts 11:25-26 (NLT)

Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. 26 When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)

Acts 11:27-30 (NLT)

During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.) 29 So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. 30 This they did, entrusting their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.

Communion

Step 1: Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-24. 23For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Step 2: Pray a prayers of thanks. Thanking Jesus for His body that is broken for us. Then eat the bread together

Step 3: Read 1 Corinthians 11:25-26. 5In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Step 4: Pray a prayer of Thanks. Thanking Jesus for His blood that was shed for us. Then drink the cup.

Step 5: Ask if anyone would like prayer.