

Bible Study Group Notes

Acts 11.19–30

THE BIG PICTURE

Acts 11.19–30 shows what happens when the risen Lord continues to build his church. Believers are scattered by persecution, yet the gospel spreads. New Christians come to faith, are encouraged and taught, and then begin caring for others in practical ways. The key verse is 11.21: *“the hand of the Lord was with them.”* Behind all the activity of the church stands the Lord Jesus himself. He grows his church through witness, strengthens it through encouragement and teaching, and produces generosity in his people.

INVESTIGATE

Read Acts 11.19–30.

1. How does the gospel first arrive in Antioch according to 11.19–21?
2. What do the scattered believers preach in 11.20?
3. What does 11.21 teach us about the relationship between human witness and God’s work?
4. What does Barnabas see when he arrives in Antioch, and how does he respond (11.22–24)?
5. What does Barnabas urge the believers to do in 11.23?
6. Why do Barnabas and Saul spend a year teaching the church (11.25–26)?
7. What is significant about the name “Christian” in 11.26?
8. How do the believers respond when they hear about the coming famine (11.27–30)?
9. What do we learn from the phrase “every one according to his ability” (11.29)?

REFLECT & APPLY

10. The gospel spread through ordinary believers who had been scattered by difficult circumstances. What opportunities has God placed in your everyday life to speak about Jesus?

11. Barnabas encouraged believers to "remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose." What helps Christians persevere over the long term? What makes perseverance difficult?

12. Who might need encouragement from you this week? What practical step could you take?

13. Why is teaching and learning God's word so important for a healthy church?

14. If someone observed your life closely, would "Christian" be an appropriate description? Why or why not?

15. The believers in Antioch responded generously to the needs of others. What opportunities has God given you to be generous with your money, time, hospitality, or abilities?

16. Which of the three pictures in this passage challenges you most at the moment: speaking about Christ, remaining faithful to Christ, or serving others generously?

PRAY

- Thank God that the Lord Jesus continues to build his church.
- Pray for courage to speak about Christ, perseverance to remain faithful to him, and generosity towards others.
- Ask God to make St Peter's a church where people are brought to Christ, strengthened in Christ, and equipped to serve Christ.

NB The Church Prayer Pointers for this month are available in church or on the WhatsApp group.