

Acts 11:19-30
“The Gospel Comes to Antioch”
October 19, 2025

Acts 11:19-30

[19] Now those who had been scattered as a result of the persecution that started because of Stephen made their way as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. [20] But there were some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus. [21] The Lord’s hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. [22] News about them reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to travel as far as Antioch. [23] When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged all of them to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts, [24] for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And large numbers of people were added to the Lord. [25] Then he went to Tarsus to search for Saul, [26] and when he found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught large numbers. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

[27] In those days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. [28] One of them, named Agabus, stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine throughout the Roman world. This took place during the reign of Claudius. [29] Each of the disciples, according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers and sisters who lived in Judea. [30] They did this, sending it to the elders by means of Barnabas and Saul.

Main Idea - Our identity as Christians calls us to a Christlike life.

What the enemy meant for evil God has turned to good.

Genesis 50:19-21

[19] But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? [20] You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people. [21] Therefore don’t be afraid. I will take care of you and your children.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Acts 11:21

[21] The Lord’s hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

The Jerusalem church sends Barnabas.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

[1] You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. [2] What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

They get a name—Christians.

Galatians 3:27-29

[27] For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. [28] There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. [29] And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

What do we do with the Name?

- Am I resting in the finished work of Christ?
- Are the people around me better because I am in their lives?
- Am I enjoying the nearness of God through Scripture and prayer?
- Was I more generous this year than last?
- When did I last introduce Christ into a conversation?
- Where in the world does Jesus want me to go next?

The Antioch Church answers the question, "Do you love your brothers and sisters?"

Acts 26.24-29 –

[24] As he was saying these things in his defense, Festus exclaimed in a loud voice, "You're out of your mind, Paul! Too much study is driving you mad." [25] But Paul replied, "I'm not out of my mind, most excellent Festus. On the contrary, I'm speaking words of truth and good judgment. [26] For the king knows about these matters, and I can speak boldly to him. For I am convinced that none of these things has escaped his notice, since this was not done in a corner. [27] King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you believe." [28] Agrippa said to Paul, "Are you going to persuade me to become a Christian so easily?" [29] "I wish before God," replied Paul, "that whether easily or with difficulty, not only you but all who listen to me today might become as I am—except for these chains."

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- When did you become a Christian, who shared the gospel with you?
- Have you felt "scattered" in your life, has the Lord brought good from it?
- How have you been encouraged by others, and how can you become a better encourager?
- The disciples in this passage were called "Christians" by outsiders. What did this say about these people? Is there a particular aspect of the community in this passage that encourages or challenges you to grow?
- What does it really mean to be a Christian? How is your life different?
- Where will you take the name of Jesus next?
- From your Life Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?