



Advancing The Gospel Together

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL



To discuss what a Gospel centered church looks like and how we can be on mission together, as a church, to proclaim the Gospel, send out leaders, and serve the communities where our churches call home.

ICE BREAKER



When you vacation, do you prefer to sit and relax, or go and do?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Acts 11:19-30

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

(Turn to Acts 11 in an ESV bible to continue reading verses 25-30)

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: Gospel centered churches reach out to proclaim, to send, and to serve.

Key Question: What does a Gospel centered church look like?

1. A church that proclaims the Gospel wherever it goes. (vv. 19-21)
2. A church that raises up and sends out leaders. (vv. 22-26)
3. A church that serves others with sacrificial generosity. (vv. 27-30)

DISCUSSION



- Acts 11:19-30 describes a Gospel centered church, and its people, as those who proclaim, send, and serve. Charles Spurgeon said that “every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.” Given the aim of a Gospel centered church, do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
- In verses 19-21, we see the apostles scattered after the stoning of Stephen. Despite the persecution they faced, they were determined to proclaim the Gospel. Why do you think the early church was so committed to sharing the gospel? What holds you back from proclaiming the Gospel where you are at? What are practical ways you can share the Gospel?
- The church sends Barnabas to Antioch in verses 22-26, who in turn makes more disciples. How do you see yourself fit into this call to make disciples (Matthew 28:16-20)? Who are you being discipled by? Who are you discipling? Do you think this is something every Christian should do?
- The disciples provide for each other in times of great need in verses 27-30. What does sacrificial generosity look like for you in your current life stage or circumstances?
- Where do you see the church succeeding today at proclaiming, sending, and serving? Where are there needs? How can you be committed to these causes as part of a Gospel centered church?

LIFE APPLICATION



Brainstorm ways that you as a group can proclaim the good news of the Gospel in your community, raise up and send out leaders from your group, and serve with sacrificial generosity. Write these down, pray over them, and work towards these goals together as a group throughout the year.

Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


