



# ACTS: THE STORY CONTINUES



## WARM-UP

When traveling, what are the things that stick out to you the most?

*Pray for your time together as a group.*

### ACTS 11-19-30 (NIV)

19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. 20 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. 22 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. 27 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) 29 The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. 30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.



In verse 19, we see echoes of the cross by spilt christian blood coming before an increase in believers. How might this encourage us today? How does this remind us of God's sovereignty?



In verse 23, it says that Barnabas noticed "what the grace of God had done". Why do you think grace was emphasized? How does this inform how we interact with non-believers and believers alike?



Barnabas and Saul stayed an entire year to build up the Church in Antioch. Why do you think they did this? What might have been some reasons for staying there?



How can we prioritize the teaching and nurturing of new believers in our own church or circles?



The disciples didn't wait to measure the faith or worthiness of those they sent gifts to during the famine. How does this remind us of God? How does this impact your ideas of giving?

### **ACTS 13:1-3 (NIV)**

1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.



What is different about the church in Antioch here?



What does this passage teach us about the importance of community in the life of a believer (vs. 25-30)?

## DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- How have you experienced God's grace this week?  
Community this week?
- How have you seen God bring good from terrible circumstances in your life?