

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 27, 2007

Passage: Acts 11:1-30

Memory Passage: John 13:34-35

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 11:1-18.** What was the initial response of the disciples in Jerusalem when they heard about Peter going to the house of a Gentile to share the gospel? How does this compare with the response of Barnabas in Acts 11:23?
- (b) In Acts 11:4-10, what does Peter emphasize as a reason that he shared the gospel with Gentiles? What confirmation does Peter give in Acts 11:12-14?
- (c) What additional proof does he give them in Acts 11:15-17? How does he also point to the words of the Lord in his evidence?
- (d) How did they respond to his testimony (Acts 11:18)? What does this show about God's sovereignty in salvation (2 Timothy 2:25-26; Acts 16:14)?
- (e) What can we learn about God's guidance from this passage? What does Romans 12:1-2 tell us?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 11:1-18 and Acts 16:14. Talk about how we can know how God is leading us. What factors help a person know God's will for his life? Pray that in all you do this week, you will be found pleasing in His sight.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 11:19-21.** How far did some go preaching the gospel? What prompted them to go to these places (Acts 8:1-4)?
- (b) Who did these people restrict their sharing the gospel with? How did the gospel first get to Antioch?
- (c) How does Luke describe the focus of their preaching (Acts 8:5, 35; Acts 9:20; Acts 17:18; 1 Corinthians 1:23-24; 2:1)?
- (d) How does Luke describe their conversion? What element describes the sovereignty of God in conversion? What describes the responsibility of man?
- (e) How does Paul describe his ministry at Corinth (1 Corinthians 3:6-11)? What is our responsibility? Who gives the increase?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 11:19-21 and Romans 10:13-17. Discuss the planting of new churches. How did the gospel come to Antioch? How does God work in our sharing the gospel? Will churches be planted if we are not sharing the gospel? What should be the focus of our sharing? Pray that God would use you to tell others about Christ.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 11:22-24.** How did the church in Jerusalem respond when they heard about the believers in Antioch? Compare this with what happened in Samaria (Acts 8:14)? Why did the Jerusalem church do this?
- (b) Who did the church send to Antioch this time? Why would he have been a good choice (Acts 4:36; Acts 11:20)?
- (c) What was Barnabas's response to the conversion of these Gentiles? How is this an appropriate response (Luke 15:7, 10, 32)? What might have been the response of many of the Jews in Jerusalem?
- (d) What did Barnabas see evidence of that caused his heart to rejoice? Compare this with Acts 13:43. What did he encourage this group to do?
- (e) What did Paul commend the Ephesian elders to in Acts 20:32? What does Hebrews 13:9 tell us is "good" for believers? Why is grace so important in the Christian life?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 11:22-24 and Hebrews 13:9. Talk about grace. What is it? How is it different from mercy? How should we respond to God's grace in others? What happens when we do not grow in grace? Pray that your heart might be established by the grace of God and not by your own works.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 11:24-26.** How is Barnabas described in verse 24? How do Psalm 37:23 and Psalm 112:5 describe a "good man?" Proverbs 14:14 says a "good man is satisfied from above." What does that mean?
- (b) What did Barnabas do when he saw the work in Antioch was more than he could handle? What are some of the reasons that he went to get Saul?
- (c) What did Barnabas and Saul focus on at Antioch? Why is this such a priority for any church (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2; Ephesians 4:11-14; John 8:31)?
- (d) What two things does Peter exhort his readers to grow in (2 Peter 3:18)? How did Barnabas do this in Antioch?
- (e) What were the disciples called at Antioch? What else were they called (Acts 6:1; Acts 9:2, 13, 30; Acts 11:1)? What did Jesus tell his disciples in John 13:34-35?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 11:24-26 and 2 Peter 3:18. What is to be the main focus of the church? What happens to churches that do not keep a proper focus on teaching the Word of God? What are some ways this is to be done? Pray together for the Bible teaching ministries of your church.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 11:27-30.** What unusual event takes place at Antioch? Does Agabus give directions about what to do? What does this tell us about the limitations of prophecy?
- (b) What does Paul remind the prophets in 1 Corinthians 14:29-37? What principles does he give for prophets?
- (c) How should believers respond to prophecy (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22)? What are we warned not to do? What are we instructed to do?
- (d) What did these disciples at Antioch decide to do? What does this tell you about the Body of Christ (John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:16-18; Galatians 6:10)?
- (e) What principles did they follow in their giving (Acts 11:29/2 Corinthians 8:3, 12; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3? How do you think their giving affected the church in Jerusalem (also 2 Corinthians 9:8-14)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 11:27-30 and Galatians 6:10. Discuss biblical giving. What does God desire in our giving? What effect does biblical giving have on our own lives? What effect does it have on others? How did the giving of the church at Antioch affect the church at Jerusalem? Pray that God would give you a cheerful heart of giving for the spread and encouragement of His church.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 11. What bothered the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem about the conversion of the Gentiles? How did God's sovereign work in their salvation help convince the Jews that Peter had done the right thing? Why did Barnabas respond differently from the church at Jerusalem? Why is grace so important for us, not just in salvation but also in life? Why are teaching and giving important to the life and witness of the church? Pray for your church as it meets to hear the teaching of God's Word.

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The First Christians

“And the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.”