

Series: Centrifugal Faith

Scripture and Background Information for October 25-31.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Jesus promised his disciples that they would be his witnesses, starting in Jerusalem and going until the end of the world (1:8). Acts 10 + 11 show how the gospel spread beyond the borders of Jerusalem. Driven by the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, believers spread the good news wherever they went.

Background for Acts 11:19-26:

For Jews, there were only two types of people, Jews and Gentiles. Gentiles were seen as people who were not chosen by God. Chapter 11 shows us how God changed the view of new believers concerning gentiles. Peter was the first who was sent to preach to Gentiles. After Peter told the Jewish believers what happened to him, they understood that God's plan was to include all people. Nevertheless, the believers continued to preach to Jews only (11:19).

In Antioch, a new movement started to develop. Jewish believers began to reach Gentiles. The church in Jerusalem heard of that, and they sent Barnabas to observe the things going on in Antioch. Barnabas was overwhelmed by what he saw in Antioch, naming that Gentiles became genuine believers.

Barnabas took Saul to Antioch, and both of them started teaching the church. Both of them also became the first missionaries who were sent out to preach the gospel.

Some tools to engage with the text:

1. What did encourage the spread of the gospel (V. 19)?
2. What did Barnabas see in Antioch, and how did that affect the ministry of the church?
Compare 11:1-18 with 11:19.
3. Why do you think the believers in Antioch were called Christians?

Notice: The believers in Antioch were the first who were called Christians. Christ overturns boundaries like Jew, Gentile, Roman, or Greek. Christ unites all different people into ONE family of God (Eph 2:19-22).

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

November 1-7	Acts 13
November 8-14	Acts 15