

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Other passages to look at: —John 20:21, Acts 8:4, Matthew 28:18-20, James 1:2-4, Romans 5:8; Matthew 6:31-33; 1 Peter 5:7.

READ THE PASSAGE

What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

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.

Gathered to scatter and become planted seeds (vs 19-21)

God is working; we must join His work (vs 19-21)

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. ²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

To grow up to be like Jesus, we need to learn and live the Word of God (vs 22-26)

Our Mission at South Holly is: Becoming disciples that make disciple makers, and Becoming leaders who multiply leaders

When we see the grace of God, we should join the grace of God (vs 23)

Our God is a sending God (vs 22)

We must see ourselves as sent from God (vs 22)

²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

God sent people to help people help other people. (vs 27-28)

Our Vision at SHC is to "Becoming a healthy church to help other churches become healthy"

²⁹ So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰ And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

God will never send you where God is not already working (29-30)

Some of us need to stop asking God why, and start answering the call of God. (vs 19-20)

Put into Practice:

☐ Where we are scattered, we take our Savior (19-22)

☐ When you see God's grace strengthen someone's faith (vs 23)

☐ When God shows a need, we should take a generous step (vs 29-30)

Small Group Discussion Questions

Healthy for a Purpose | Acts 11:19–30

Leader, remember to read the passage together first, then give everyone room to share honestly, listen without rushing to fix, and allow anyone to pass.

1. Where has God given you opportunities to share Jesus in your everyday relationships? Acts 11:19–21; John 20:21

The scattered Christians carried the message of Jesus into new places. Think about where you live, learn, work, and play.

- Who helped you take a step toward Jesus? What about that relationship helped you trust them?
- What makes talking about your faith feel natural, or difficult?
- Who is one person this group could join you in praying for?

2. How could we become better at noticing God's grace in one another and encouraging each other to remain faithful? Acts 11:22–24; Hebrews 3:12–13

Barnabas saw God's grace, rejoiced, and encouraged the Christians to remain faithful to the Lord.

- When has someone's encouragement helped you through a difficult season?
- What is one way you have seen God working in someone in this group?
- What would meaningful encouragement look like for you right now?

3. What helps you move from hearing God's Word to living it, and how can we help each other do that? Acts 11:25–26; Matthew 28:19–20; James 1:22–25

Barnabas and Saul spent a whole year meeting with the church and teaching many people. Spiritual growth involved sustained learning together.

- Can you share a time when Scripture changed how you handled a relationship or decision?
- What makes consistent time in God's Word challenging in your current season?

- What could our group do to make it easier to ask questions and take honest steps of obedience?

4. Who has helped you discover that God could work through you, and who could you encourage in the same way? *Acts 11:25–26; Acts 9:26–28; Ephesians 4:11–16; 2 Timothy 2:2*

Barnabas intentionally sought Saul and brought him into the work at Antioch. They served and taught together.

- What did someone see in you before you saw it in yourself?
- Is there a way you would like to serve but feel uncertain or unprepared?
- How could someone in this group walk alongside you, or who could you invite to serve alongside you?

5. What would it look like for our concern for someone to become concrete, generous action this week? *Acts 11:27–30; 1 John 3:16–18; 2 Corinthians 8:9, 12*

The disciples heard about the coming famine, determined to help according to their ability, and followed through.

1. When has someone's practical generosity helped you feel cared for?
2. What can make it difficult to give help, or to admit that we need help?
3. Is there a need we could respond to together, while respecting the person's privacy and dignity?

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God's Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as: What is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through life.

sharing, caring, praying, serving, and mobilizing each other.

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God's Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leader's Guide (WITH SUGGESTED AND HELPFUL ANSWERS)

Main Purpose

Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. In Adam, sin and death reign. In Christ, grace reigns. Because of this, we rejoice — not just in what God does, but in who He is.

Pathway

When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.

Understanding the Questions

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1. Where has God given you opportunities to share Jesus in your everyday relationships? Acts 11:19–21; John 20:21

The scattered Christians carried the message of Jesus into new places. Think about where you live, learn, work, and play.

- Who helped you take a step toward Jesus? What about that relationship helped you trust them?
- What makes talking about your faith feel natural, or difficult?
- Who is one person this group could join you in praying for?

Biblical answer: Ordinary, unnamed believers proclaimed the Lord Jesus, and people believed and turned to Him because the Lord's hand was with them. God works through His people's witness, and we depend on His power for the response. Jesus sends His followers into the world as His witnesses. We can build caring relationships, speak honestly about Jesus, and trust Him with the results.

2. How could we become better at noticing God's grace in one another and encouraging each other to remain faithful? Acts 11:22–24; Hebrews 3:12–13

Barnabas saw God's grace, rejoiced, and encouraged the Christians to remain faithful to the Lord.

- When has someone's encouragement helped you through a difficult season?
- What is one way you have seen God working in someone in this group?
- What would meaningful encouragement look like for you right now?

Biblical answer: Barnabas responded to God's work with joy and encouragement. His concern included their continued faithfulness to Jesus. Hebrews teaches that regular encouragement helps guard our hearts against sin's deceitfulness. A healthy church grows as we recognize God's grace, speak truth with love, and help one another persevere.

3. What helps you move from hearing God's Word to living it, and how can we help each other do that? Acts 11:25–26; Matthew 28:19–20; James 1:22–25

Barnabas and Saul spent a whole year meeting with the church and teaching many people. Spiritual growth involved sustained learning together.

- Can you share a time when Scripture changed how you handled a relationship or decision?

- What makes consistent time in God's Word challenging in your current season?
- What could our group do to make it easier to ask questions and take honest steps of obedience?

Biblical answer: The church in Antioch received sustained teaching because believers need nourishment through God's truth. Jesus commands us to make disciples by teaching them to obey His commands, and James calls us to put the Word into practice. Healthy discipleship includes learning, obedience, and relationships in which we help one another follow Jesus.

4. Who has helped you discover that God could work through you, and who could you encourage in the same way? *Acts 11:25–26; Acts 9:26–28; Ephesians 4:11–16; 2 Timothy 2:2*

Barnabas intentionally sought Saul and brought him into the work at Antioch. They served and taught together.

- What did someone see in you before you saw it in yourself?
- Is there a way you would like to serve but feel uncertain or unprepared?
- How could someone in this group walk alongside you, or who could you invite to serve alongside you?

Biblical answer: Barnabas helped connect Saul to meaningful ministry. His example shows the value of recognizing and making room for others' contributions. Ephesians teaches that leaders equip believers for ministry and that the body grows as its members do their part. Paul also instructs Timothy to entrust the truth to faithful people who can teach others. Healthy churches develop people through faithful teaching, encouragement, and shared responsibility.

5. What would it look like for our concern for someone to become concrete, generous action this week? *Acts 11:27–30; 1 John 3:16–18; 2 Corinthians 8:9, 12*

The disciples heard about the coming famine, determined to help according to their ability, and followed through.

- When has someone's practical generosity helped you feel cared for?
- What can make it difficult to give help, or to admit that we need help?
- Is there a need we could respond to together, while respecting the person's privacy and dignity?

Biblical answer: The Antioch believers expressed their unity with believers in Judea through practical relief. Each contributed according to ability, and their decision became action. Christian generosity flows from Jesus' sacrificial love for us. We give willingly from what God has entrusted to us, allowing His love to take tangible form through our care.

As you move to MVPs, remind everyone to take these thoughts with them, and take their weakness before the Lord with each other:

Invite each person to name one next step: **pray for one, encourage one, or help one.** Pray for each other and check-in throughout the week with warmth and encouragement.

Put it into practice: Use the MVP's and decide what attribute of Jesus relates to your ("box")—the area of life you focus on more than Jesus' life and work. Share one specific struggle with the group, then pray for one another to trust God and take one faithful step of obedience this week.

One simple step this week: Write down one worry. Memorize the verse that correlates with the attribute of Jesus you chose, and pray that into your life. Start praying by praising God for who He is, and thanking God for giving you Jesus, then ask the Holy Spirit to help you take one faithful step while you trust Jesus with the outcome.
