



We Desire God's Blessing

Purpose Statement: We are an authentic, relevant, Bible-based church that welcomes everyone and desires to grow and serve together.

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.

To be a church that God blesses, we should learn from the church **of Antioch...**

- God blesses a church where every person uses their gifts and abilities and tells others about the GOOD NEWS of Jesus.

- God blesses a church where the Gospel is proclaimed as the POWER of GOD to save sinners.
- God blesses a church where His GRACE, not legalism, permeates the body and that same GRACE is the motivation to remain true to the Lord.
- God blesses a church where Godly LEADERS set the example of holiness and faith and are devoted to teaching GOD'S WORD.
- God blesses a church where the people are devoted to GENEROUS GIVING and MEETING NEEDS beyond themselves.

Life Groups

Scriptures that Relate:

Monday: Acts 7
Tuesday: Acts 8

Wednesday: Acts 9
Thursday: Acts 10

Friday: Acts 11
Saturday: Acts 12

Talk it Over:

1. What comes to mind when you hear the hand of God was upon them?
2. How do you view your role as a member of the church? As a minister?
3. Talk about the power of God to change your life and the lives of others.
4. What is essential to remain true to the Lord?
5. How should the church be meeting needs within, in the community and around the world?

Pastor Brian's Prayer Requests

Monday: Pray for those who are battling health issues that God would bring peace.

Tuesday: Pray for those with financial issues that God would provide a job and bring them peace.

Wednesday: Pray for those with struggling marriages that God would provide hope and walls would come down.

Thursday: Pray for those that have a very difficult time during the holidays, especially those who have lost a loved one.

Friday: Pray for families with children that parents would be the examples God calls them to be.

Saturday: Pray that many who deal with stress and worry would find a way to trust God more quickly.