Acts 11:19-30 : Week 24

Share The Love of Jesus

START HERE

Have you ever had someone believe in you before you really believed in yourself?
What did they see in you that you weren't able to see yet?

LOOK AT THE WORD

Read Acts 11:19-30 together. In Acts 11, the early church continues to grow as believers share Jesus, encourage what God is doing, meet practical needs and invest in others. Barnabas plays a particularly important role when he chooses to believe in Saul and invest in him when others were still afraid of him.

The passage gives us a picture of what it looks like when our faith becomes visible through the way we live.

DISCUSS

1. Share Jesus wherever you go

Read Acts 11:19-21.

The believers in Acts were scattered because of persecution, but they didn't lose their mission. Wherever they went, they shared the good news about Jesus.

What stands out to you about the way these believers responded to hardship?

How can we "plant the gospel where God plants us" in the ordinary places and circumstances of our lives?

---

2. Show and tell

The message describes the Gospel as both something we show and something we tell.

“Show + Tell = Lives changed.”

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1.

Why do you think both our actions and our words matter when it comes to sharing Jesus?

Which comes more naturally to you, showing God's love through your actions or talking about your faith? Why?

---

3. Encourage what God is doing

Read Acts 11:22-23. When Barnabas arrived in Antioch, he didn't focus on criticizing, controlling, comparing or complaining. He saw what God was doing and encouraged the believers to remain faithful.

Why can it be easier to point out what's wrong than to recognize what's going right?

What would it look like for you to become more of an encourager in your family, workplace, friendships or church?

Read **Ephesians 4:29.**

Who is someone you could intentionally build up this week?

---

4. Meet needs generously

Read Acts 11:27-30. The early church didn't just preach the Gospel. They practiced it by meeting the needs of others. The message makes the distinction:

Empathy feels. Compassion acts.

Why is it important to recognize that not every need is financial?

Think about the people around you. What are some spiritual, relational, emotional or practical needs you might be able to meet?

---

5. Who is your Barnabas?

Read Acts 11:25-26. Barnabas went looking for Saul and brought him to Antioch. Barnabas was willing to invest in someone whose reputation made others hesitant to trust him.

Have you ever had a "Barnabas" in your life, someone who believed in you, encouraged you or opened a door for you?

What did their investment mean to you?

---

6. “I see in you…”

The message highlights four powerful words we can speak to another person: “I see in you…” Barnabas saw something in Saul before others could see it. The message says, “The right word at the right time from the right person can change someone's life.”

Why do you think being genuinely seen and believed in can have such a powerful effect on someone?

Who is someone in your life who might need to hear what you see in them?

---

7. Who are you discipling?

The message asks two questions:

- **Who is discipling you?**
- **Who are you discipling?**

The speaker also points out that you don't need to know everything to teach somebody something.

What does discipleship look like in your life right now?

Is there someone you could intentionally invest in, even if you don't feel like you have everything figured out?

---

8. What does your life communicate?

Read **Acts 11:26.** *“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”* The message closes by connecting the name **Christian**, meaning “little Christ,” with the way believers lived.

If someone only knew you by the way you treated people, what would your life communicate about Jesus?

What is one area where you want your faith to become more visible?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few minutes to reflect silently:

1. **Who has been a Barnabas to me?** How can I thank or honor them?
2. **Who might need me to be a Barnabas for them?**
3. **Where is God inviting me to move from simply believing the Gospel to practicing it?**

TAKE IT WITH YOU

This week, take one step:

- **Share Jesus** with someone through both your words and your actions.
- **Encourage** someone by telling them what you see God doing in their life.
- **Meet a need** you notice instead of walking past it.
- **Invest in someone** who is one step behind you in their faith journey.

Challenge: Find one person this week and tell them specifically, “I see in you…”

PRAY TOGETHER

Pray that God would help your group:

- Live in a way that makes the love of Jesus visible.
- Notice the needs of people around them and respond with compassion.
- Become people who encourage rather than criticize.
- Recognize opportunities to invest in others.
- Be willing to believe in people who may still be works in progress.
- Become the kind of people whose lives point others toward Jesus.