

Acts 11:19–26 describes how the gospel began spreading beyond Jerusalem to the wider Gentile world. After the persecution connected with Stephen’s death, believers were scattered across regions such as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. Some began sharing the good news of Jesus not only with Jews but also with Gentiles, and many became believers. When the church in Jerusalem heard what was happening, they sent Barnabas to encourage the new Christians. Barnabas then travelled to Tarsus to find Saul and brought him back to Antioch. Together they taught the growing church for a year. It was in Antioch that Jesus’ followers were first called “Christians.”

What would enable you be more confident in helping others to grow in their Christian faith?

Read: Acts 11:19-26

1. Read Acts 11:19 and Acts 8:1–4. What does this show about how God can work through difficult circumstances?
2. See Acts 11:19. Why do you think they may have focused first on Jewish people?
3. What changed when some believers from Cyprus and Cyrene arrived in Antioch? Read Acts 11:20. Compare this with Acts 10:34–35. What barriers were beginning to be broken down?
4. Read Acts 11:21. What do you think the phrase “the Lord’s hand was with them” means? See also Luke 1:66.
5. Compare Acts 11:20–21 with 1 Corinthians 3:6–7. How might God use ordinary Christians today?
6. Read Acts 11:22. What does this tell us about the importance of established churches supporting new Christian communities?
7. Read Acts 11:23. What does Barnabas’ response teach us about encouraging new believers?
8. Barnabas urged them to “remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.” What might that look like in practice?
9. Why do you think Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul? Read Acts 11:25 and Acts 9:26–28. Why do you not look for help when it’s needed?
10. The disciples were first called “Christians” at Antioch. What do you think people saw in them that connected them so clearly with Christ? See Acts 11:26 and John 13:34–35.
11. If people watched your life, what might show them that you follow Jesus?
12. What does this passage teach us about the kind of church God wants to build?

Prayer Points

Pray for the groups as everyone starts back again. Pray for energy, vision and blessings upon all who volunteer.

Pray for Sierra Leone, that God would bring prosperity that benefits all and that he would raise up leaders who will care for the people and the future of the nation.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

September 13th 2026

'From the Street to the Table'

Multiplying Disciples
Acts 11:19-26

Jesus calls His followers to “make disciples” and to teach them to obey everything He has commanded (Matthew 28:19–20). Where do you start with someone who is new to the faith? How do we engage with people in the first place? Discipleship is a lifelong process, not something we complete (Philippians 1:6). The goal is to become increasingly like Jesus, growing in love, holiness and maturity (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18), while encouraging and helping others to follow Him too. How does that happen in our church? This series maps out a simple understanding for how we make disciples as a church, not just new Christians, but throughout our lives.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001