ACTS 11:19–30 / NOVEMBER 1

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read and Pray

This week's sermon focuses on the church at Antioch in Acts 11. With your group, read Acts 11:19–30. As you read, notice what characterized this church and how God worked through ordinary believers. After reading, spend time in silent prayer. What stood out to you? What might the Holy Spirit be pressing into your life?

Sermon Recap (to *apply*, not rehash the sermon)

Review the sermon with your group. Focus especially on:

- The church at Antioch was made up of ordinary people on an extraordinary mission, and the hand of the Lord was with them.
- A healthy church grows both wide and deep—reaching people with the gospel and helping them become more like Jesus.
- The church at Antioch turned grace into generosity, sharing what God had given them to meet the needs of others.
- Christ mattered more than culture. Their unity in Jesus transcended their differences, and God used them to multiply his church.

Group Discussion

1. Look again at Acts 11:19–30. What stands out about the people God used to build the church at Antioch? What evidence do you see that the hand of the Lord was with them?
2. The sermon emphasized that the church at Antioch grew both "wide" and "deep." Why is it important for a church to pursue both reaching new people and developing mature disciples?
3. In verses 27–30, the believers respond to God's grace with generosity. How does understanding what God has given us through the gospel change the way we think about what we have?
4. The believers at Antioch were united by Christ despite their cultural differences. Where are you most tempted to let personal preferences or cultural differences become more important than your unity with believers?
5. Pastor J.D. reminded us that the ministry of the church belongs to ordinary believers, not just pastors. Where might you be waiting for someone else to do something God has called you to do?
6. Read Acts 13:1–3. The church at Antioch didn't just grow; it sent people out to multiply. What might need to change in your life for you to become more invested in God's mission through our church?

WEEKLY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFLECT:
Are you more concerned with what you want from your church or what God wants to do through it?

RESPOND:
What is one step you can take to help our church grow deeper or wider?

REACH:
Who has God placed in your life that you can intentionally move toward with the gospel this week?

PRAYER

- ☐ Thank God for what he has done through our church, recognizing that spiritual fruit comes from his hand, not our efforts alone.
- ☐ Ask God to grow our church both wide and deep, making us a people who reflect Jesus and help others follow him.
- ☐ Pray for a heart of generosity and a willingness to be sent wherever God calls you to participate in his mission.