

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Unknown Church - The Antioch Effect” Acts 11:19-26, 13:1-3 3/23/19

Getting Started:

The most radical paradigm shift of sharing Jesus to all nations happened when persecution drove the early church to disperse. This dispersion did not destroy the movement of Jesus, but instead deployed it to the ends of the earth. The vehicle...the Church at Antioch.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus said, “You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” This verse acts as the outline for the book of Acts. Acts 1-7 show the early church preaching and discipling in Jerusalem. Acts 8-12 show the early church preaching and discipling in Judea and Samaria. Acts 13-28 show the early church preaching and discipling to the ends of the earth.

Persecution is not a bad thing. It often is the vehicle God uses to move us out of our comfort zone and into the battle. **Share with us about a time when God allowed a hardship or persecution in your life to take you to a new place of growth or service...**

Going Deeper:

Salvation Sharing Church: “But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, **preaching the Lord Jesus.** And the hand of the Lord was with them, and **a great number who believed turned to the Lord.**” (Acts 11:20-21)

At its core, every true church must preach Jesus Christ as our Savior who died for our sins, rose from the dead, and lives in us.

**Where were you when you heard and believed in Jesus as your Savior?
Who have you shared the gospel with so they can believe in Jesus to?**

Spirit Filled Church: “for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord...Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit there would be a great famine over all the world...While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said...” (Acts 11:24,28, 13:2)

There is often confusion in Christianity because some churches claim to be ‘Spirit-filled’ while others don’t. No matter what a church advertises, the bible is clear in Ephesians 5:18 that ALL Christians are to “Be filled with the Spirit”. This means we humble ourselves, ask God to speak to us, listen carefully for His voice, and obey the directions He gives us. It was this posture and process that that allowed Saul and Barnabas to be sent out to mission. How are you doing with ‘being filled with the Spirit’? Are you seeing and hearing God work in your life as you submit and listen to Him?

Scripture Saturated Church: For a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.” (Acts 11:26)

What a privilege it was to sit at the feet and hear the teaching of a great bible scholar like Saul was! For an entire year, this new group of Christians were able to soak up his lifetime of study from the Old Testament and his 13 years of pondering and understanding of how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament. Which Bible teachers have most impacted your faith journey and how did they do it?

Consider writing those people a note of thanks and encouragement...

Sacrificial Serving Church: So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to **send relief to the brothers** living in Judea.” (Acts 11:29)

How do you serve others through CBC? How are you supporting CBC?

Strategic Sending Church: And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul....**Set apart** for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and **sent them off.**” (Acts 11:30, 13:2-3)

One of the last things Jesus said to His disciples (John 20:21) was, “As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.” All Christians are sent by Jesus into the mission field of our families, work places, schools, communities, country, and world. Charles Spurgeon once said, “Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.” Know that as part of the world-wide church of Jesus Christ, of which CBC is a part, you are a missionary and people need you to step into their lives, speaking the truth in love to them, so they can hear about Jesus and the life He brings to them now and for eternity.

How are you already doing this?

Who do you want us to join you in praying for?

Take Away: We don't attend the Church, we are the Church.

Prayer Requests: