

Bible Study on CONNECT in ACTS — Acts 11:19-30
For Sunday July 3, 2022

Acts 11:19-30 (ESV)

The Church in Antioch

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). ²⁹ So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰ And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

1. Antioch in Syria was one of the cities in the ancient world which functioned as a crossroads of culture and trade. From this passage, what significant events happened in Antioch to make it important in the history of the early church?

2. Why was Barnabas sent to Antioch?

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3. In verse 23, what does the word exhort mean? What are practical ways you can encourage fellow Christians?
4. Read Acts 9:27 about how Barnabas had spoken up for Saul in Jerusalem. How does Barnabas again show his confidence in Saul in verses 25-26 and verse 30?
5. How do you think today's meaning of Christian compares with what people in Antioch meant by Christian in verse 26?
6. Both in verses 29-30 and previous chapters of Acts, how did followers of Jesus show concern for the poor?
7. What is an immediate need in the community for which Shore Church can help "according to *our* ability"?