



May 8, 2022

## MAIN SCRIPTURE: Acts 11:22-26 (NLT)

<sup>22</sup> When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. <sup>24</sup> Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord.

<sup>25</sup> Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. <sup>26</sup> When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers<sup>[a]</sup> were first called Christians.)

## WARM-UP

- What were your general impressions of today's sermon? What insight, ideas, or inspiration did you receive?
- If you have experienced a "growth spurt," when was your most dramatic one? — Physically? Spiritually? Professionally?

(Below you will find the main points of this week's sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

## Thought #1 – We have the opportunity to learn in vs. lean out!

Verses: Acts 11:18b, 22-26

- While many opposed the spread of the Gospel to the Gentiles, our scripture passage shows us that there were others who "leaned in".

Barnabas, an encourager, was sent to check out the situation. Think back to when you were first learning the ways of Jesus, who were your encouragers? How did they help you?

- What questions and growth needs do most new believers tend to present with? Do you remember having these same questions? Who helped you get established in your new faith? How?

## Thought # 2 – It's good for us to mix with those who are still exploring faith.

Verses: Acts 11:22-26

- When Barnabas arrived on the scene with the newly believing Gentiles, scripture says that he was "filled with joy". Explain this. Why should we be filled with joy when new people groups believe?
- Unfortunately, not everyone is "filled with joy" when new groups receive the Gospel. Often there is suspicion and a bit of concern that follows. Have you experienced this? Can you explain why some in the early church would have been suspicious and concerned when the Gentiles first began to believe? In what ways is this tendency still prevalent today?
- What are some good and healthy ways that believers can "mix it up" with unbelievers in our society today?

## Thought # 3 – We are in this together!

Verses: Acts 11:22-26

- Pastor Kevin asked the question, "What if our friendships around here were about encouraging each other to do the work of the Lord together?" Well, how about it? What do you think the result would be if College Church was able to enjoy this type of friendship dynamic?
- Pastor Kevin said, "The reason we offer classes is not to fill your schedule, not simply to increase your head knowledge. We hope to provide the opportunity for you to build relationships that encourage you to follow Jesus, continually be changed by Jesus, and be about the mission of Jesus." In your opinion, what potential danger is

