

Reflecting on Acts 11 | June 26, 2022

Questions for Personal Study and Discussion

- 1. Read Acts 11:1-18.** For the third time in two chapters, Luke recounts the story of Peter's vision that led to the Gentiles hearing the gospel and receiving the Holy Spirit. While this repetition may seem unnecessary to modern-day readers, it's clear that Luke views the circumstances as extremely important. Explain in your own words why the spread of the gospel to Gentiles is so significant.

- 2. Read Acts 11:1-3, 17-18.** Upon his return to Jerusalem, Peter is met with criticism for having fellowship with non-Jews. Even after Peter shares what God had vividly taught him through his vision and Cornelius' conversion, the believers in Jerusalem respond with silence, perhaps even resignation. How enthusiastic are you to see the gospel go to all people? What are some ways you can contribute to the spread of the gospel this week?

3. Read Acts 11:17. Peter says that if he hadn't shared the gospel with Gentiles he would have been guilty of, "stand[ing] in God's way." In other words, Peter's failure to witness would have hindered the gospel at least and opposed the gospel at worst. What are some biases and prejudices you see in our Christian culture that might prevent us from being effective witnesses?

4. Read Acts 11:19-21. In verse 21, Luke explains that, "a great number who believed turned to the Lord."

- Based on this passage, what specific actions (on the part of men of Cypress and Cyrene) led to this blessing?

- Take some time to brainstorm with your group: What are some ways for you to welcome outsiders into your home, into your life, and into the family of God this week?

5. **Read Acts 11:22-30.** Considering the behavior of the brothers and sisters at Antioch, and particularly Barnabas and Saul, explain what it meant to be a “Christian” in this community of believers. How can the Christian community of Calvary Baptist Church follow their example?