

Building the Church

Acts 11-12

Lesson 9

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 11, 12

1. After reading through this week's verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.
 - **Acts 11 Key Words:** God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Peter, Barnabas/Saul, and believed/saved
 - **Acts 12 Key Words:** God, Jesus (Lord), angel, Peter, and Herod
3. The contrasting word *but* was used six times in Acts 11 and eight times in Acts 12. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.

But -

4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used in Acts 11:17 and in Acts 12:5. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

Therefore -

PETER RECOUNTS HIS VISION: Read Acts 11:1-18

1. What news reached the ears of the apostles and other believers?
 - a. Notice the word *received* in verse 1. Share in your own words what it means to receive the word of God.
2. Acts 11:2,3 tell us that those of the circumcision contended with Peter. What did they say to him?

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3. According to Acts 11:18, what was the response of the apostles and believers to Peter's story?

4. Why do you think they were so upset by what Peter shared?

5. What are some teachings from the word of God that anger people today?

PAUL AND BARNABAS IN ANTIOCH: Read Acts 11:19-30

1. Who did the church of Jerusalem send out?
 - a. What has been revealed about Barnabas so far in the book of Acts?
 - Acts 4:36,37
 - Acts 9:26-28
 - Acts 11:23,24

From these verses give a brief description of Barnabas

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2. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus... (Acts 11:25). Who did Barnabas seek?
 - a. What about Paul do you think attracted Barnabas to him?
 - b. Barnabas and Saul went to Antioch. What did they do there? Verse 26
3. Prior to this time, believers were referred to as *the Way*. What were they called for the first time in Antioch?
 - a. What are some other terms the Bible uses to describe a Christian?
 - b. What is your favorite term for a Christian? Why?
4. A prophet named Agabus came to Antioch. According to verse 28, what did he prophesy?
 - a. Record the response of the believers in verse 29,30.
 - b. What does it mean to give according to his ability?
 - c. How does this speak to you about giving?

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PETER IMPRISONED: Read Acts 12:1-4

1. According to verses 1,2 what did King Herod do?
 - a. Since these actions pleased the Jews, what did Herod do to Peter?
 - b. In what ways can desires to please others corrupt our decisions?

What does Proverbs 29:25 say about this?

- c. What did Herod *intend* to do with Peter?

PETER SET FREE: Read Acts 12:5-19

1. What did the church do while Peter was in prison?
 - a. How is this an example for us in times of crisis?
2. Summarize what happened in Acts 12:6-10

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3. What did Peter do when he realized God had delivered him? Verse 12

a. Summarize the events that followed verses 13-18

4. Why are we sometimes surprised when God answers our prayers?

Give an example of a time when you prayed even though you did not believe God would actually do something

5. After executing the apostle James, and attempting kill Peter, who were Herod's next victims? Verse 19-20

THE DEATH OF HEROD: Read Acts 12:20-24

1. Using Acts 11:20, describe the relationship between Herod and the people of Tyre and Sidon.

2. What was the reaction of the people to Herod's speech?

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3. What was the reaction of Herod to the people's reaction?

4. What was God's reaction to Herod's reaction to the people's reaction?
 - a. Why did God strike Herod?

REVIEW:

1. How does the example of the church praying for Peter encourage you to pray for those who serve in difficult situations?

2. What do you want to remember next time you are in a place of suffering?

3. In what way do we need to guard against committing the sin of Herod?

4. In what ways have you been challenged or encouraged by this lesson?