

Discussion Questions



Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. The Antioch Model

The church in Antioch was unique because they stopped consuming ministry and started commissioning it. They sent out their best people (Paul and Barnabas) when the Holy Spirit called them.

2. Five Characteristics of the Church in Antioch

- **Born from persecution and divine grace** - They understood commitment to Jesus could cost everything
- **Multi-ethnic and cross-cultural** - First church to deliberately reach beyond Jewish boundaries
- **Deeply rooted in teaching and discipleship** - Spent a full year being taught and transformed
- **Prophetically alive and spiritually active** - Attentive to the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts
- **Generously connected to the wider church** - Gave sacrificially to believers in need

3. Building Phases Matter

Both physical buildings and spiritual communities require:

- Strong foundations (often unseen work)
 - Dramatic structural growth (exciting milestones)
 - Intricate details (ongoing discipleship and accountability)
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. What stood out to you most from this sermon? Why?
2. The sermon mentioned that Antioch was "very different" from Jerusalem. What made it different, and why was that important for the spread of the gospel?
3. Read Acts 11:19-26 together. What surprises you about how the church in Antioch started and grew?

Personal Reflection

4. Which of the five characteristics of the Antioch church resonates most with you personally? Which one challenges you the most?
5. Pastor Ike said, "We are building a launch site, not a landing pad." What does that phrase mean to you? How does it challenge typical church culture?
6. Ignatius of Antioch was willing to die for his faith, writing "I am God's wheat, to be ground by the teeth of beasts." How does his story challenge your understanding of discipleship and sacrifice?

Application & Action

7. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate our church (or your personal faith) on each of these characteristics:
 - Relying on God's grace through hardship
 - Being cross-cultural and welcoming to all
 - Being teachable and transformed by teaching
 - Being attentive to the Holy Spirit
 - Being generous to the wider church
8. The sermon compared building phases to spiritual growth. Where are you in your spiritual journey right now?
 - Foundation work (disciplines that feel slow)
 - Structural growth (dramatic changes)
 - Intricate details (fine-tuning and maturing)

9. What would it look like for you personally to shift from "consuming ministry" to "commissioning ministry"?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Cross-Cultural Connection

Intentionally reach out to someone from a different cultural, ethnic, or generational background. Have a conversation about faith or invite them to church.

Option 2: Teachability Assessment

Reflect on the last teaching you heard (sermon, Bible study, etc.). Write down one specific way you will apply it this week.

Option 3: Generous Giving

Identify a need in the wider church (local or global) and give sacrificially toward it, whether financially or through service.

Option 4: Spirit Sensitivity

Set aside 15 minutes each day this week to pray and ask God, "What are you calling me to do? Where are you sending me?"

Group Action Step

As a group, discuss: **How can we as a small group become more of a "launch site" rather than just a gathering?**

Consider:

- Who could we send or support in ministry?
- What mission or outreach could we participate in together?
- How can we encourage one another to step out in faith?

Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- Dear Run Church to embody the characteristics of the church in Antioch
- The building expansion to truly become a launch site for missionaries and disciples
- Hearts to be willing to be sent, not just to gather
- Specific people in your group who God may be calling to step out in new ways
- Global and local mission fields that need laborers

Bold Prayer:

"Lord, make us willing to give our best people, our best resources, and our best efforts for Your mission. Help us to be a church that sends, not just a church that gathers."

Closing Thought

"We are not building so we can land more people and fill more seats. Our prayer is that from this very site, from this location, we will send missionaries to countries outside of Canada. We will send missionaries to our local communities."

The best is yet to come.