

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday July 12, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 11:19–26**, we see God working through ordinary believers to accomplish extraordinary things. God is not looking for famous, highly qualified people before He moves; He is inviting everyday followers of Jesus to participate in His mission. Many of us wrestle with feeling unqualified, unnoticed, or unsure of how God could use us. This passage challenges us to see that faithfulness, encouragement, and obedience are often how God does His greatest work through ordinary people.

Main Passage:

Acts 11:19–26

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Some of Them

READ ALOUD

Acts 11:19–26

Opening Question: What is something you once felt unqualified to do but eventually gained confidence in through practice or encouragement?

- What stands out to you most in this passage?
- What do you notice about the people God used to start the church in Antioch?
- Why do you think Luke highlights unnamed believers rather than focusing only on well-known leaders?
- Where might God be inviting you to participate in His mission right where He has placed you?

APPLY

- Which part of this passage challenges you the most right now: reaching others, encouraging others, being discipled, or living distinctly for Jesus?
- Who is currently in your "outer circle" that God may be prompting you to intentionally invest in?
- What would it look like for people around you to clearly recognize that you belong to Jesus?

RESPOND

- What is one specific step you can take this week to participate in God's mission where He has placed you?
- Who is one person you can intentionally encourage, pray for, or connect with this week?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Acts 11:1–18

- How does Peter's experience earlier in the chapter prepare the way for what happens in Antioch?
- What does the chapter teach us about God's heart for people who are different from us?
- How do both sections of Acts 11 show God expanding His mission beyond people's expectations?

PRAY

Take a few moments to reflect on what God may be showing you through this passage. Ask Him to help you faithfully live where He has placed you, to notice opportunities to encourage others, and to courageously reach people outside your normal circle. Pray for a greater dependence on God's power rather than your own abilities. Thank Jesus for His grace and for inviting ordinary people into His mission.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 11:19–26

- How did God use ordinary people in this story?
- Why do you think the believers shared Jesus with other people?
- Who is someone we can encourage this week?
- What is one way our family can help others see Jesus through our actions?

For younger children: Jesus can use anyone who loves and follows Him. Ask God to help you be kind, brave, and willing to share His love.

For older kids or students: What is one place—school, sports, work, or online—where God may want you to represent Jesus more intentionally this week?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 12:1–5
- **Day 2:** Acts 12:6–11
- **Day 3:** Acts 12:12–17
- **Day 4:** Acts 12:18–24
- **Day 5:** Acts 12:25

What's Going On?

Acts 11 marks a major turning point in the story of the early church. The gospel is spreading beyond Jerusalem and reaching people from many different backgrounds. As believers scattered because of persecution, they continued sharing Jesus wherever they went.

In Antioch, both Jews and Gentiles came to faith and formed a thriving church community. This church became a key center for discipleship, encouragement, and future missionary work that would spread the gospel throughout the world.

A Bit of Background

Antioch was one of the largest and most influential cities in the Roman Empire. Bringing Jews and Gentiles together into one church was highly unusual because those groups were often divided by culture, tradition, and religion.

The unity found in Christ was so noticeable that the surrounding community began calling Jesus' followers "Christians" for the first time.