



Conversations That Matter: Barnabas

Acts 11:19-30 - The HUB

EPISODE 1 - GOD AT WORK IN ANTIOCH

1. THE MISSION FIELD - ANTIOCH (19-20)
2. THE LAUNCH - CHURCH PLANTING (21-24)
3. THE GROWTH - DISCIPLESHIP (25-26)

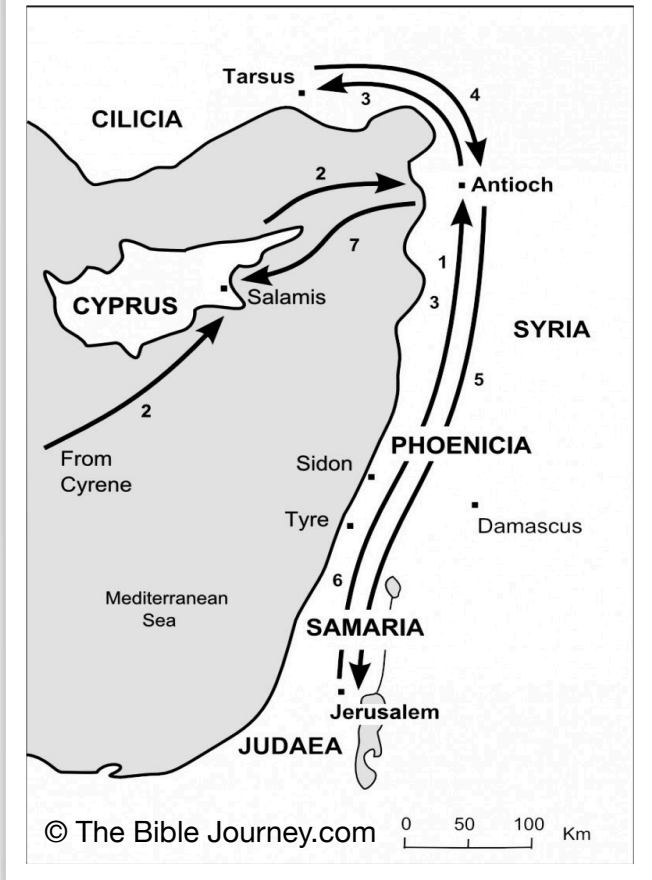
EPISODE 2 - THE DISCIPLES RESPOND TO A NEED

1. THE PROPHECY OF AGABUS (27-28)
"FAMINE TO BEGIN ACROSS THE WORLD"
2. THE MISSION PROJECT (29-30)
"RELIEF TO THE BROTHERS LIVING IN JUDEA"

Discussion Questions

1. Read Acts 4:36-37, 9:26-27. The name "Barnabas" was given by the apostles and could mean either "son of encouragement" or "son of exhortation." What three things does Acts 9:26-27 tell us about how Barnabas practiced the gift of encouragement? (Help: He was generous, respected, and in tune with God's will for Saul (had his back) Why did he respond to multiple situations in such an effective manner? When you think of a genuine believer what are some other characteristics that come to mind?
2. Read Acts 11:25-26. In these verses we learn that Barnabas and Paul stay in Antioch for a year. What were they doing and why did it take so long? Did you have anyone in your life when you met Christ that spent an extended time with you to teach you how to walk with God?
3. Read Acts 11:27-29. Barnabas, along with Saul, organized the collection of funds among Gentile Christians to help their fellow Jewish believers suffering through a famine in Judea. Acts 11:29 says that everyone gave "according to his ability." This verse is primarily is about talking finances, but it also demonstrates the point that each of us has different gifts and abilities to minister to those around us. In what ways are you using your resources (Time, Talent, Treasure) to help meet the needs of others in the Lehigh Valley. If your not already doing this answer this question - Why am I not using my resources and where can I start using them?
4. Pray together asking God to give you eyes to see the needs around you and the faith to step up and minister to those in need.

Acts 11:19-30: ¹⁹"Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as **Phoenicia** and **Cyprus** and **Antioch**, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of **Cyprus** and **Cyrene**, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.



²¹ And the **hand of the Lord was with them**, and a **great number who believed** turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent **Barnabas** to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ **for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.**

²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. **For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people.** And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ **And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).** ²⁹ So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰ **And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul."**



L.I.F.E. Group Leader's Guide

Main Idea: The mission of the church is empowered by God, activated by ministry across cultural boundaries, strengthened by teachers/preachers, supported by Spirit-led teams, and assisted by the unity and steadfastness of believers.

Looking Back: Last week we focused on the collaboration between Peter and Cornelius and the impact the obedience to God's uncomfortable call on their lives led to people (gentiles) embracing the message of the gospel. Looking back on your life is there anyone that God has connected you with that became a partner with you in your journey with Christ and reaching others with the gospel?

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Study Question #3: Read Acts 11:27-29. Barnabas, along with Saul, organized the collection of funds among Gentile Christians to help their fellow Jewish believers suffering through a famine in Judea. Acts 11:29 says that everyone gave "according to his ability." This verse is primarily about talking finances, but it also demonstrates the point that each of us has different gifts and abilities to minister to those around us. In what ways are you using your resources (Time, Talent, Treasure) to help meet the needs of others in the Lehigh Valley. If you are not already doing this answer this question - why am I not using my resources and where can I start using them?

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS (CRU)

- 1) What does this passage tell you about God and His Character?
- 2) What does this passage tell you about People?
- 3) What does this passage tell you about His relationship with people?
- 4) How might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to live differently?

Praying Together: Pray together asking God to give you eyes to see the needs around you and the faith to step up and minister to those in need.

Mission Challenge (Application): Is there a ministry or non-profit in the Lehigh Valley you could partner with to meet a need in someone's life? Make a plan to visit a shelter, food pantry or another place to serve together meeting need in the community.

