

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

II THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA Acts 8-12

LESSON 10 - The Church Grows - Acts 11

KEY VERSE

... so it was that for a whole year they [Barnabas and Saul] assembled with the church and taught a great many people and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26).

PONDER¹

READ Acts Chapter 11.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

PETER DEFENDS GOD'S GRACE ²

READ Acts 11:1-18.

1. What did the Apostles and brethren³ hear about the Gentiles⁴ (v. 1)? _____

2. Why did those of the circumcision⁵ contend with Peter (vv. 2, 3)? _____

3. How did God convince Peter to take the Word of God to the Gentiles?

vv. 4-6 _____

vv. 7-10 _____

¹ PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

² GRACE: the unmerited favor of God; grace meets man in his wickedness and offers righteousness as a gift.

³ brethren - Greek *adelphos*: disciples, believers, followers of Christ.

⁴ Gentiles: a non Jew; referred to as dogs (see Matthew 15:26) and unclean (see Acts 10:14) by the Jewish leaders.

⁵ the circumcision: Jewish Christians who believed that Gentiles had to become Jews when they became Christians; having to be circumcised and keeping the Law of Moses.

v. 11 _____

v. 12 _____

vv. 13, 14 _____

v. 15 _____

v. 16 _____

PERSONAL

God confirms His will in many ways. How has He confirmed His leading in your life? _____

4. What did God reveal to Peter about the Gentiles (Acts 11:17)? _____

5. How did those of the circumcision react after Peter's defense of God's grace extended to the Gentiles (v. 18)?

THE CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH

READ Acts 11:19-26.

1. Where did those who were scattered after Stephen's persecution go (v. 19)? _____

6 7 8

Who did they preach to? _____

⁶ Phoenicia: a narrow strip of land stretching 185 miles along the eastern Mediterranean coast.

⁷ Cyprus: a large island in the northeastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea.

⁸ Antioch: cosmopolitan city made up of various cultures and ethnic backgrounds including Persia, India and China.

2. When the men who were from Cyprus and Cyrene spoke to the Hellenist in Antioch, what amazing thing took place (vv. 20, 21)?

3. Hearing this news, who did the church in Jerusalem send to Antioch (vv. 22-24)? _____

What did he do there? _____

DESCRIBE Barnabas. _____

What was the result? _____

4. Why did Barnabas depart to Tarsus⁹ (vv. 25, 26)? _____

Paul and Barnabas taught a great many people for one year in Antioch. How was the church identified for the very first time in Antioch?

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THE SPIRIT'S LEADING

READ Acts 11:27-30.

1. What did the prophet Agabus predict by the Spirit (vv. 27, 28)? _____

2. What did the Christians do (vv. 29, 30)? _____

PERSONAL

Throughout the world, when unexpected disasters occur, who is first on the scene? In what ways can you and your family be a part of sending relief to the needy?

⁹ Tarsus: the birthplace of Saul; 300 miles north of Jerusalem.

¹⁰ Christians: worshipers of Christ the Messiah; the historian Josephus called them "that tribe of Christians". Tacitus, the Roman historian, referred to them as "Christians, a name derived from Christ". Originally the Church called themselves "the Way".

LOOK DEEPER

What instructions and promises are given concerning the act of benevolence in the following verses?

Proverbs 11:25 _____

Proverbs 22:9 _____

Isaiah 58:10 _____

Luke 6:38 _____

Acts 20:35 _____

II Corinthians 9:6, 7 _____

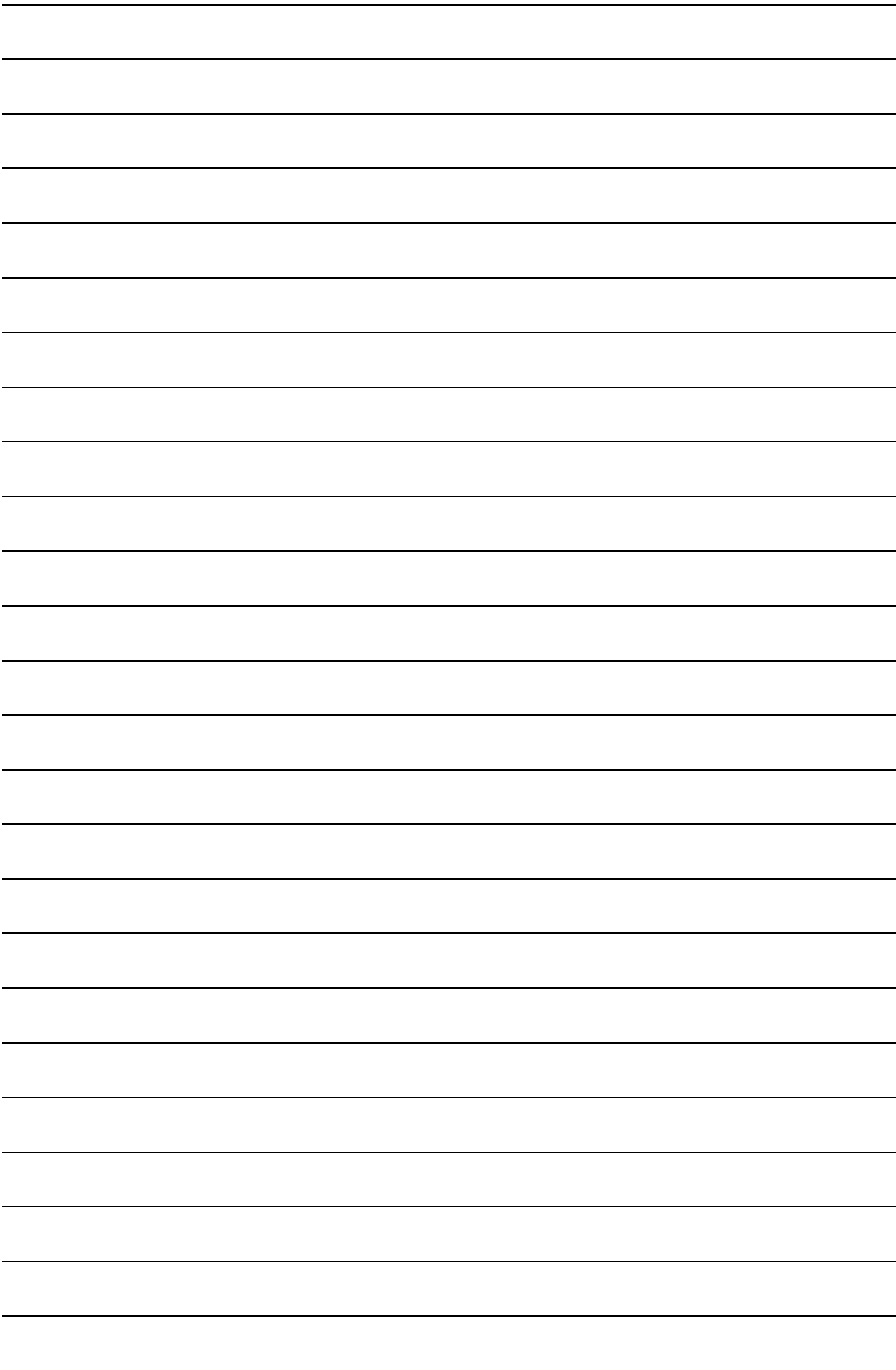
I Timothy 6:17, 18 _____

James 1:27 _____

WRITE out the KEY VERSE. _____

*And they continued steadfastly
in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
Acts 2:42*

NOTES: _____



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His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

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