

LEAVING AN UNIMAGINABLE LEGACY (START 5)

ACTS 11:19-30 AND 13:1-4

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – OCTOBER 4, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Acts 11:19-30 and 13:1-4. The full passage is essential for today's discussion.

REACH ONE

Getting to know people and helping people get to know Jesus.

As we continue growing in the habit of intentionally going out of our way to see people, carve out some discussion time to let group members share how they took a step towards others during the past week. It doesn't matter if it's small (learning their barista's name) or big (getting to share Jesus with someone), celebrating little wins like these can go a long way into making this part of our daily rhythms and lifestyle.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

If you had to describe your week using a weather forecast, what would it be, and why?

SERMON RECAP

1. The Antioch Church: Ordinary people, Extraordinary Legacy
 - The church at Antioch began through ordinary believers scattered by persecution. Their faithful obedience shaped generations far beyond their imagination.
 - One such example was John of Antioch - "Chrysostom", whose faithful and courageous preaching revolutionized preaching for all Christian history.
2. Generational Fruit: God's Design for the Church
 - What if God's design for a church is to bear fruit for generations far beyond what the people who plant that church can imagine?
 - We celebrate 65 years of God's faithfulness at MBC – honoring the founding families, Pastor Gardner, Pastor Solomon, and many others who "let down their nets", bearing fruit far beyond what they could have foreseen.
3. START 5: Spirit-Led, Not Strategy-Driven
 - This vision will not rely on human strategies or our own wisdom and strength to produce for God. Instead, the church of Antioch model will provide a blueprint:
 - Worship, prayer, fasting, seek God's wisdom
 - Leadership of the Spirit will be our guide
 - Hold our plans loosely, as they are not the source.
 - Surrendered lives, casting our nets by faith, trusting God to bear fruit in our lives, the life of our church, and far beyond MBC for generations to come.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read Acts 11:19-30 and 13:1-4 as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.

2. What do you observe in Acts 11:19-30?
 - What do you observe about those preaching and receiving the gospel in Antioch?
 - When Barnabas arrived in Antioch, what did he see? What specific action did he take? vv.22-25
 - What did the Lord do? vv.21, 24
 - What did Paul and Barnabas do while in Antioch?
 - What significant identity marker emerges in the passage?
 - How does the church respond in verses 27-30?
3. What do you observe in Acts 13:1-4?
 - What are the people doing?
 - What actions does the Spirit command the church to take?
 - How do the people respond?
4. How would you summarize 11:19-30 and 13:1-4?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. What does the church at Antioch teach us about God's design for the church?
2. Why is it significant that the believers were called "Christians" in Acts 11:26? How does this view of what it means to be a Christian differ from a cultural view of Christianity? Matthew 7:21-23; Galatians 2:20
3. What point is Luke making about ordinary faithfulness when he emphasizes "unnamed" believers in Acts 11:26? 2 Kings 5:2-3; Acts 4:13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
4. What would have happened if the church at Antioch in Acts 11 relied on human strategy instead of Spirit-led obedience? What ways have you seen failure of human strategies in attempting to advance God's mission? Gen 11:1-9; 1 Samuel 13:8-14
5. Why is it important for MBC's vision to START 5 Congregations, not rest on human strategies? Psalm 127:1; John 15:5, Ephesians 3:20-21.

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. How might God use your faithfulness in ways you will never witness?
 - Where are you tempted to measure obedience by visible results rather than by faithfulness?
 - What part of your life do you still try to control because you fear God may lead differently than you prefer?
 - What "small" act of obedience might God multiply far beyond your lifetime, even if you never see the outcome?
 - What would it look like to trust God with the unseen, the uncelebrated, and the unmeasured parts of your obedience?
2. What practices can we cultivate to become more like the church Antioch?
 - What rhythms of worship, prayer, or fasting need to become non-negotiable in your life?
 - Where do you need to slow down so you can hear the Spirit rather than rush ahead with your own plans?

- How can you intentionally build relationships across ethnic, cultural, and generational lines the way Antioch did?
3. What legacy might God be building through us individually, and as a Church group, that will outlive us and far from MBC?
 - What part of your life could God use to shape someone else's future faithfulness?
 - What investments in people, prayer, or generosity might bear fruit long after you are gone?
 - What legacy do you want to leave that is unmistakably centered on Christ rather than on your accomplishments?
 4. How can your church group specifically pray for you?