

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH

“And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.” (Acts 11:21)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	The church needs good workers who are full of faith, the Holy Spirit, and good morals. The church grows when its members study and are led by God’s word. The church is characterized by its generosity and servitude.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is Spirit. He is with us when we follow His will.
<i>Good Work</i>	Devote ourselves to God’s word by transforming our character, giving and serving, and spreading the gospel. Have a living and effective faith.

A. The Church at Antioch (Acts 11:19–26)

In a chaotic time of persecution for followers of Christ, a leading example for churches was established in Antioch and its believers. God used the opposition to spread His word and strengthen the church more than ever.

B. The Grace of God

God’s grace becomes more visible in times of trouble. Because we live by grace, we must cling to God and remain true to Him no matter what trials we encounter. We need to make a resolution to follow God, and God alone.

C. Good Workers for Christ

It was not just Barnabas and Saul who worked hard for Christ. The Antioch members’ conduct testified of God’s grace, distinguishing them from unbelievers and identifying them as followers of Christ. Their reputation was such that it was in Antioch where they were first called Christians (Acts 11:26).

D. Relief for the Brethren in Judea

The Bible records that the Antioch members sent relief “each according to his ability” (Acts 11:29) to Judea. When everyone in the church learns to take part in giving and offers the best they can (2 Cor 8:12), all believers can share in the blessing of giving (2 Cor 9:7–8).

Life Application

1. Devoting Ourselves to God’s Word

- Transforming our character:* Our lives should become marked by our love for others and obedience to God’s word.
- Spreading the gospel:* We cannot only rely on ministers; we have a duty of sharing the gospel so that others can also be saved.
- Giving and serving:* Not every member is a Barnabas or a Saul, but we each have our own duties to help the church function (1 Pet 4:10).

2. A Living and Effective Faith

Barnabas shows us that it is not enough to simply believe in God. Barnabas shows us how to have a faith that is living and effective. We must be: full of the Holy Spirit and of faith; submissive to God’s calling; conscious of God’s grace; humble and strong in God’s word; and trustworthy.

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Lesson 6 Homework Assignment

The Church at Antioch

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Acts 11:21):

1. What does it mean to “turn to the Lord”?
2. How did the gospel come to Antioch?
3. Why were the believers first called Christians in Antioch?
4. What does it mean to be a good worker for Christ?
5. What are three ways we should devote ourselves to God’s word?
6. After studying Barnabas’ example, what particular areas of your own life can you improve so that you can have a living and effective faith? Explain how you can improve.