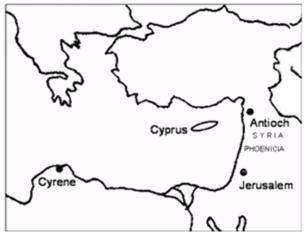
Power to Witness in Word and Deed

The Book of Acts
Acts 11:19–30

Read Acts 11:19-30.

- 1. Stephen's murder begins a terrible wave of persecution against the church in Jerusalem and almost everyone flees (8:1). Many of the Greek-speaking Jewish believers then go to Gentile cities in the north that already have established Jewish communities. Indicate on the map where they go. (v. 19)
- 2. These scattered believers preach the good news about the Lord Jesus everywhere they go (8:4). To whom do they exclusively preach? (v. 19)



http://www.generationword.com/notes/bible-information/acts-maps.html

- 3. So far in Acts, the only Gentiles who have become believers are "insiders." The Ethiopian eunuch (8:26–28) and Cornelius (10:1–2) were already seeking a relationship with the God of the Jews.
 - a. Who now comes across to Antioch? (v. 20)
 - b. What unprecedented thing do they do? (v. 20)
 - c. Why is it now okay that they preach to these Gentile "outsiders"? (v. 18; Eph. 3:4–6; 🕮* Eph. 2:14–17)
 - d. How is the bold decision to preach to these Gentiles confirmed? (v. 21)
- 4. It doesn't take long for the news to reach the believers in Jerusalem (v. 22), and they send a representative to investigate this new development. Whom do they send, and why is he the perfect choice for this job? (vv. 22–24; 4:36–37; 9:27)
- 5. Barnabas arrives in Antioch (vv. 23-24).
 - a. What does he find?
 - b. How does he respond?
 - c. What is the result of Barnabas' ministry there?

^{*}The \square symbol indicates verses for further study.

6.	Barnabas decides to stay longer in Antioch to pastor this large and diverse group of believers. He recruits Saul, who is living in Tarsus (9:30), to help him. Why is Saul the right person for this job? (9:15, 26–30; Gal. 1:1)
7.	Describe the ministry of Barnabas and Saul in Antioch. (v. 26b)
8.	Before this, the followers of Jesus were seen as a small group within Judaism. What does the new name "Christians" (v. 26c) imply about the message being preached in Antioch? (v. 20c; Gal. 3:26–28; 2 Cor. 5:17–21)
9.	Prophets played an important role in the early church. They were gifted by the Holy Spirit to preach, exhort, explain, foretell, and warn. (Acts 13:1; 15:32; 19:6; 21:9–10) a. What message does Agabus have for the Christians in Antioch? (vv. 27–28)
	b. How do they respond? (vv. 29–30)
	c. What do you think this response reveals about the Gentile believers' attitude toward the Jewish believers in Judea?
10.	Read Matthew 28:18–20 and Acts 1:8. How is today's passage a fulfillment of Jesus' commands to his disciples?
11.	Barnabas saw "evidence of the grace of God" (v. 23) at work in ordinary people in Antioch. a. Name several ways you see God graciously at work in Antioch.
	b. Name several ways you see the grace of God at work today.
12.	This passage is an exciting picture of Christians growing and moving out beyond their comfort zones as they take risks, encourage one another, use their gifts, make commitments, and are open-minded and generous. How could growth in some of these areas better equip you to serve in the kingdom?
	Pray for growth in these areas.