

Lesson 33: Acts 11:1-18 Peter Reports to the Church

Background: Peter in front of the church in Jerusalem.

Acts 11:1-3 Who criticized Peter for eating with gentiles?_____

Acts 11:4-16 What did God do to show Peter that He had accepted the gentiles?_____

Acts 11:4:17-18 What did the Jewish members of the church think about the gentile believers after Peter explained what had happened?_____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

Adult Signature X_____

Acts 11:1-18 Question Answers

Acts 11:1-3 Within the church family of God, there were two groups of Jewish believers in Jesus. The first group was the “Circumcision party,” which thought that the gentiles, non-Jews, had to first become Jews before they could become a follower of Jesus. By this time in Acts 11, this was the belief of practically the whole church. Later on though, most of the Jewish members of the church would see that all a gentile had to do to become a follower of Jesus was to trust that Jesus really is God the Son and that He died to pay for their sins. God had given His chosen people the sign of circumcision, the practice of cutting a baby boy’s skin, in order to mark them as one of God’s chosen people. Because Gentiles men did not have this mark showing that they were followers of the One True God, the members of the circumcision party did not believe that they could be saved by just trusting and following Jesus. So they demanded that all non-Jewish believers in the church keep the Jewish food laws and for all gentile men to receive the mark of circumcision. Because of this, **the circumcision party in the church criticized Peter for eating unclean food with unclean gentiles.**

Acts 11:4-16 When the gentiles heard the Gospel, the Good News that Jesus is God the Son and that He died to pay for the sins of everyone who trusts and follows Him, **God the Holy Spirit came down from heaven and entered their hearts.** Because the Jewish believers had already seen the coming of God the Holy Spirit during the feast of Pentecost, and knew that it meant God was still caring for His church family on earth, seeing God the Holy Spirit coming upon the gentile believers was a sign that God’s church family now included anyone who trusts and follows Jesus, not just Jews related to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God the Holy Spirit lives in every believer in Jesus, giving them the power to resist sin and to live the life with God that He wants for us most.

Acts 11:4:17-18 Because Peter was an Apostle of Jesus, one of the chosen twelve who Jesus Himself had sent to tell the Jews that their promised King had come to save them, the church family of God listened to him. They knew that if God had told Peter not to call “unclean,” what God had made “clean,” then they too should not call any follower of Jesus “unclean,” because Jesus had cleaned away all their sins. And because God the Holy Spirit had come upon the gentile believers, just as He had come upon the Jewish believers, they now knew that God had forgiven the gentile believers in Jesus, freed them from sin, and accepted them into His church family. Given all of this, **the Jewish believers in Jesus knew that God had accepted the gentile believers** into His church family.

Lesson 34: Acts 11:19-30 The Church in Antioch

Background: Paul and Barnabas in front of the church in Antioch.

Acts 11:19-21 Why was the church scattered as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch? _____

Acts 11:22-24 Who did the church send to Antioch? _____

Acts 11:25-30 What did Agabus prophesy would happen? _____

4 Prize dollars if an adult reads the Bible passage with the student and helps them fill out their Study Sheet.

Adult Signature X _____

Acts 11:19-30 Question Answers

Acts 11:19-21 When Jesus died on the cross in Jerusalem, the church, Jesus' followers, were all in and around Jerusalem, the capital city of Judea. When Jesus raised from the dead three days later, the church began telling everyone in Jerusalem that they had seen Him alive. It was because of this that Saul of Tarsus started arresting Jesus' followers, believing that they were worshiping a mere man, and not God. Stephen, one of the six deacons who were appointed by the church in Jerusalem to distribute food to the Greek-speaking widows, was the first of many in the church who were killed for telling people that Jesus was the Christ, the King of the Jews. Because of Stephen's arrest and death, many members of the church ran off to far away lands, fearing that they too might be arrested and killed for following Jesus. In this way, Jesus' church family spread from Jerusalem all of the way to Antioch, which is over 7000 miles away. They went to Phoenicia, which is over 5500 miles away. And they went to Cyprus, which is over 750 miles away. So, because **Saul was arresting Christians**, the church scattered, and told more people about Jesus.

Acts 11:22-24 As the church scattered from land to land, many Hellenists, many Greek-speaking Jews, came to trust and follow Jesus. Hearing about this, **the Hebrew church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas** to visit this new Greek church of Jesus-followers in Antioch over 7000 miles away.

Acts 11:25-30 When Barnabas found Saul of Tarsus, who after seeing Jesus back from the dead, had become a follower of Jesus, Barnabas took Saul to the church in Antioch. They met with the church there and taught the people about Jesus for a whole year. During this time, God sent a man named Agabus from Jerusalem to Antioch to warn His church family there **that there would be a great famine in all of Judea**, meaning that there would be no food for the church in Jerusalem to eat. Because of this, the members of the church in Antioch decided to give Barnabas and Saul whatever they could give them to take back to the church in Jerusalem, in Judea, to help God's family there.