

Looking for
helpful
resources as
you study
Acts?



Bible Project



Free Commentary



Free Crossway Study

LET'S CHECK IN:

1. Briefly share: over the last week, what's one way you've noticed God working in your life? Or in the lives of others? In your community? In the world? Or share something that happened in the last week you are grateful for!

LET'S GET STARTED:

2. Icebreaker: Have you ever been on the receiving end of harsh, difficult criticism? How'd you respond? Why do you think it's hard to handle criticism?

LET'S DIVE IN!

3. First, read together Acts 11. Think back to the message and the Big Idea: **grace not only works in us at salvation, but *through* us in our sanctification.**
 - ⇒ 1st Point: God's grace enables humble listening hearts (11:4-18).
 - ⇒ 2nd Point: God's grace enables the ordinary to do the extraordinary (11:19-21).
 - ⇒ 3rd Point: God's grace enables gospel partnerships (11:25-27).
 - ⇒ 4th Point: God's grace enables acts of generosity (11:28-30).

Was there an idea or aspect of the text spoke to you? Was there anything said that challenged, intrigued or confused you that you want to explore more? Listen to each other, but don't feel the need to answer a person's question.

4. In Acts 11:1–18, Peter recounts to the apostles and the church in Jerusalem the news of Cornelius's conversion and the Gentiles' reception of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 11:2–3, Peter receives some harsh criticism from the "circumcision party." Note, however, the change of attitude from Acts 11:2–3 to Acts 11:18. Like Peter before, the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem were thinking that God still wanted separation between Jews and Gentiles. Looking at Acts 11:4–17, what things changed their understanding?

5. Those who had been critical of Peter finally “glorified God.” They were willing to change their minds and retract their opinions based on Peter’s testimony regarding God’s word. When was the last time you changed your mind on something important to you and how you live, based on what you saw or were shown in God’s word? Why can changing our views or position be challenging? How can we cultivate listening hearts in situations where we face disagreements or differing opinions?
6. When you consider how the church in Antioch got started through man’s unplanned ways or efforts, what can we take away when we try to understand God and ministry?
7. Thus far in Acts, Barnabas has emerged as a striking disciple of Jesus (Acts 4:36-37, 9:26–27), 11:20–22). What stands out to you most about his actions, beliefs, methods, and/or desire to partner? What can we learn from him to apply in our context and lives? Do you think it is effective to partner with others in ministry? Why can it be challenging?
8. When you consider the church in Antioch’s response to the prophecy about a coming famine, what’s unique about their response? What can we learn from it? Why is it challenging to act in faith as they did and practically demonstrate generosity in a variety of ways? How can generosity demonstrate grace?

WHATS YOUR NEXT STEP?

9. In light of this study, share and write down one next action step you feel God is leading you to take in the next week?

(Consider areas: a temptation to avoid? Promise to claim? Example to follow? Command to obey? Person to move toward? A new discipline to develop that will help you love God with your heart, soul, mind, strength and to love others?)