



Oakwood

CHURCH

January 31 Discussion Questions “Ordinary Believers” Acts 11:19-30

Preview

- I. **Persecution causes growth** (Acts 11: 19-21)
 - Should we expect persecution?
(James 1:2-3; I Peter 4:12, 16; Acts 5:41; Ephesians 6:12; I John 3:13)
 - They had seen the Messiah crucified and then rise from the dead, and the **Truth** was worth **dying** for.
- II. **Growth comes through obedience** (Acts 11:22-26)
 - Obedience to the Lord is **worth** it (Matthew 28:18-20)
- III. **Obedience requires participation** (Acts 11:29)
 - For the church to **flourish**, it takes **everyone**
(Ephesians 4:11-12; I Corinthians 12:7, 14)

Connect

1. What is the worst injury you've had? What inconveniences and challenges did this create for you?
2. What good can be found in suffering? What does it teach us? Do you have a story of how you've grown or matured through pain?

Pray & Read Acts 11:19-30

Discuss

3. What resulted from the persecution of Stephen? In what way was his suffering a blessing for the church?
4. What good for the Gospel have you witnessed that came about through suffering?

5. According to James 1:2, we are to “count it all joy when we encounter various trials.” How do you understand this? What makes the trials of a Christian different from that of an unbeliever?
6. Based on what we learn in v.20, why do you think the hand of the Lord was upon the believers?
7. The majority of believers only went to the Jews and excluded the Gentiles. Who are we prone to neglect today?
8. Barnabas is known for having the gift of encouragement. Who are the people that most encourage you? Why do you think that is?
9. How long did Paul and Barnabas meet with the believers in Antioch? What does this teach us about the process of discipleship?
10. What did the believers do in response to Agabus’ prophecy? What is often required of us if we are to bless others? Is there a need you know of that your community group or our church should contribute to?

Apply

11. What current trial in your life do you struggle to “count it all joy?” What would it look like to consider this trial a joy? What hiccups do you have with this?
12. Based on Barnabas’ example, who is someone you need to encourage this week?
13. Who is someone God may be calling you to disciple or invest in spiritually? How do you ensure that you don’t short-change this process of discipleship?

Missional Check-In

14. How have you seen God at work this past week?
15. What opportunities did you have this week to shine His light?
16. What is one intentional step you can take this coming week to be a witness for Christ?

Prayer

Pray that God would transform your heart to see your trials differently and thus give you strength to purposefully endure them. Pray also that God would give you opportunities this week to encourage those in the midst of hard trials.

Church-Wide Prayer Focus, from the Prayer Team

Personal Prayer Focus: Pray for wisdom to identify opportunities for relevant spiritual conversations.