

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **April 26, 2020** sermon, "The Hand of God." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 11:19-30) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

IN THE MIDST OF TRYING TIMES, THE HAND OF THE LORD IS AT WORK . . .

1. Through the evangelistic efforts taking place (19-21)
 - a. Persecution, designed to destroy Christianity, resulted in its growth and spread. (19)
 - b. The gospel spread from the Jews only, to include Hellenists. (20)
 - c. The hand of the Lord was with them: God's divine grip always holds. Always.
 - i. No names of faithful servants are listed (no glory for people).
 - ii. The name of Jesus is identified (the glory belongs to the Lord).
2. Through the sound teaching being provided (22-26)
 - a. The work of making disciples is not complete after conversion.
 - b. In the midst of great trouble, fix your eyes upon God's grace.
 - i. Hold fast to the task of knowing, treasuring and teaching God's Word.
 - ii. Trouble provides contrast so that we can better see and appreciate God's grace.
 - c. Barnabas LEFT the converts to find Paul and bring him back to Antioch.
 - i. They worked hard for over a year to make sure these converts were disciples.
 - ii. So great was the transformation that they were called "Christ-ians" in Antioch.
3. Through the financial relief going forth (27-30)
 - a. There is a rhythm to giving and receiving. Learn to give and receive.
 - b. While God's hand never lets us go, we open our hands to release money/possessions.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How has persecution and trouble disrupted your life? Talk especially about how the coronavirus quarantine has changed plans, community and neighborhood life.
2. Based on #1, above: As we remain focused on proclaiming Jesus Christ, persecution and trouble provide for opportunities to speak about Jesus Christ to new friends. Have you remained focused on this goal of speaking plainly and boldly of Jesus? How can we help each other?
3. Based on #1, above: We noted that no names at all are listed in this story (until we get to Barnabas). Do you ever feel as though your name is not listed or forgotten? Do you feel overlooked? Does it help you to remember that all the glory is reserved for God?
4. Based on #2, above: None of us have been commanded to "make converts." Our Christian goal is systematically show people how to follow Jesus by teaching God's Word to them. In Antioch, this took a solid year. What did your "discipleship" process look like? Who are you discipling?
5. Based on #3, above: Are you as generous in giving as you ought to be? How does being held securely in God's hand help you release your grip on possessions?