

## ***STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS*** ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

### **Lesson 28 – Peter Explains His Actions - [Acts 11:1-18](#)**

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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#### ***Peter's Report in Jerusalem***

**1** The news soon reached the apostles and other followers of the Lord in Judea, that the Gentiles had also accepted God's message.

**2** So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the followers who had insisted that all followers be circumcised strongly criticized him.

**3** "You went into the home of people who are uncircumcised and ate with them!" *they indignantly challenged him.*

**4** So Peter told them the whole story.

**5** "One day while I was praying in the city of Joppa," he said, "I had a vision. Something like a great sheet of canvas, suspended by its four corners, came down to me from the sky.

**6** "When I could examine it closely, I saw all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth on it, including wild animals and crawling creatures, and wild birds.

**7** "Then I heard a voice tell me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

**8** "But I answered, 'Never, Lord, because I have never eaten anything common or unclean!'

**9** "But then the voice from Heaven spoke to me again, saying, 'You must never call anything unclean after God has purified it.'

**10** "This happened three times, and finally everything was drawn back up into Heaven.

**11** "At that very moment, three men, sent from Caesarea, arrived in front of the house where I was staying.

**12** "The Holy Spirit told me to go with them, and not to think twice about going. Also, these six brothers went with me, and we all went into the home of the man *who had sent the messengers.*

**13** "He told us how he had seen an angel standing in his home, who had said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and have Simon Peter brought here.'

14‘He will bring you a message by which you and everyone in your home will be saved.’

15“Well, I had barely started telling these people the Great News when the Holy Spirit came upon them in the very same way He had come upon us at the beginning.

16“Then I remembered the words of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’

17“So if God gave them the same gift that He gave us after we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could go against what God had done?”

18After hearing this report they offered no further objections. Instead they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also given the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 28 – Peter Explains His Actions - [Acts 11:1-18](#)

365. What did the apostles and Christians in Judea hear? ([11:1](#))
366. When Peter went to Jerusalem, who criticized him? ([11:2](#))
367. Who were the "circumcised believers"? ([11:2](#))
368. What did the circumcised Christians say? ([11:3](#))
369. Why did the circumcised believers imply that it was wrong for Peter to eat with Gentiles? ([11:3](#))
370. How did Peter explain his actions? ([11:4-17](#))
371. What did Peter include in his brief explanation? ([11:4-17](#))
372. What additional information did Peter provide concerning the angel’s message to Cornelius? ([11:14](#))
373. How did Peter dispel the idea that the Gentiles were second-class citizens? ([11:15-17](#))
374. On what did Peter’s defense rest? ([11:17](#))
375. How did Peter’s argument prove convincing? ([11:18](#))
376. How did Peter’s step of including non-Jews affect the church? ([11:18](#))

## Lesson 29 - The Church in Antioch - [Acts 11:19-30](#)

### *Barnabas is Sent to Antioch*

<sup>19</sup>Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that took place after Stephen was killed, traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, sharing the message with only the Jews—no one else.

<sup>20</sup>But some of the followers from Cyprus and Cyrene, who went to Antioch, began speaking to the Greeks also, telling them the Great News about the Lord Jesus.

<sup>21</sup>The power of the Lord was certainly with them, because great numbers of people believed and were converted to the Lord.

<sup>22</sup>When news about this came to the attention of the people of the church in Jerusalem, they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

<sup>23</sup>When he arrived and saw the wonderful things God was doing there, he was extremely glad, and several times he encouraged everyone there to purpose in their hearts to remain faithful to the Lord, whatever the cost.

<sup>24</sup>Barnabas was truly a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and overflowing with faith in what God would do. Many people were brought to the Lord *through his ministry*.

<sup>25</sup>Then Barnabas left for Tarsus to look for Saul.

<sup>26</sup>When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Then for a whole year, Barnabas and Saul met with the people of that church, and they taught a large number of people there. In fact, the first place the Lord's followers were called Christians was in Antioch.

<sup>27</sup>During this time, some prophets came down to Antioch from Jerusalem.

<sup>28</sup>One of them, named Agabus, stood up and prophesied by the Holy Spirit speaking through him that a great famine would afflict the entire Roman world. (And it came during the reign of Claudius Caesar.)

<sup>29</sup>So the followers decided to send whatever help they could to the followers in Judea.

<sup>30</sup>They did this by delegating Barnabas and Saul to take their gifts to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Lesson 29 - The Church in Antioch - [Acts 11:19-30](#)

377. What was one of the results of Stephen's martyrdom? ([11:19](#))

378. To whom was the news about Christ being told? ([11:19](#))
379. Who spoke to the Greeks in Antioch about the Lord Jesus? ([11:20](#))
380. What caused the news about Christ to take hold among many who heard it? ([11:21](#))
381. What resulted from the ministry of the Christians? ([11:21](#))
382. How did the church at Jerusalem respond to the increase in numbers of new believers? ([11:22](#))
383. How did Barnabas encourage the Christians at Antioch? ([11:23](#))
384. What was exemplary about Barnabas? ([11:24](#))
385. What happened to the work in Antioch? ([11:24](#))
386. Why did Barnabas go to Tarsus to look for Saul? (25-26)
387. Where were the disciples first called Christians? ([11:26](#))
388. Who was Agabus? ([11:27](#))
389. What did Agabus predict? ([11:28](#))
390. What did the Christians do for the believers in Judea? Why? ([11:29-30](#))
391. To whom did Saul and Barnabas give the gift collected in Antioch? ([11:29-30](#))