

**Sermon Discussion Questions**  
**The Church Jesus is Building: Week 9**  
**Acts 11:19-26**

*Here are some questions to discuss as you think about the message from **Acts 11:19-26**.*

1. What is encouraging for you today? What is discouraging?
2. Why is Barnabas called a “son of encouragement”?
3. What is going on at Antioch? Why are the Christians there?
4. Look carefully at verses 23-26. What can we learn from the way Barnabas encourages the church?
  - What does Barnabas see?
  - What does he experience?
  - What does he exhort the people to do?
  - What happens?
5. What is the difference between *seeing yourself as part of God’s story* and *seeing God as part of your story*? Which way of seeing provides more encouragement? Where does “grace” fit in the story?
6. The disciples were first called “Christians” at Antioch. Why do you think they took on that name?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-20. What does it mean to be an “ambassador” for Christ? In what ways are you challenged to be an ambassador for Christ in this moment in time? What are some of the opportunities and obstacles?

*If you’d like to go deeper, read Psalm 107 and Psalm 139. Ask the Lord to remind you of his goodness and faithfulness. Also ask the Lord to “search you heart” and show you where you are discouraged and struggling to trust Him. Pray this way.*

*Lord, thank you for loving me in the midst of my discouragement. I am at times uncertain and afraid. I confess that I have made my own story, my own circumstances, my own comfort, my own way of seeing the world bigger than You. Please forgive me for not trusting You. Help me to see Your grace to me more clearly so that I may experience your grace more fully. Show me how I can be your ambassador for your Kingdom. Give me the faith and strength to turn my good intentions into real love that represents You.*

