
THE MULTICULTURAL CHURCH

OVERVIEW: Discovering how God's church started in a multicultural setting and was designed to reflect that community throughout the world.



PLAY VIDEO - LESSON FOUR, SEGMENT ONE**LESSON FOUR BIBLE STUDY: (SEGMENT ONE)**

Read these passages out loud, as a group.

Acts 11:19-30 (NIV)

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

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ACTS 13:1-3 (NIV)

In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. [2] While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." [3] So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH OF ANTIOCH:

1. A church for ALL people. (11:20-21)
2. A church of diverse leadership. (13:1)
3. A church that is outwardly focused. (13:2-3)
4. A church that reflects Christ. (11:25-26)

CHURCH OF ANTIOCH LESSON 1: A church for ALL people.

Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. [21] The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. (Acts 11:20-21)

Notice that these unnamed men from Cyprus and Cyrene were the first to bring the gospel of Jesus to Antioch and their hard work paid off - "a great number of people believed." Wherever the message of Jesus becomes clear, it bears fruit. This is why we shouldn't simply assume the message will not be received, or that someone else should deliver it. - Pastor Keith Scarborough

CHURCH OF ANTIOCH LESSON 2: A church of diverse leadership.

In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. (Acts 13:1)

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TAKE NOTE OF THESE CHURCH LEADERS, AND THEIR CULTURAL BACKGROUND.

- Barnabas - Jewish
- Simeon called Niger - (it is pronounced "Nye - Jar.") Niger means black, this was presumably a man from Africa.
- Lucius of Cyrene - a Jew from northern Africa - one of the men mentioned in Acts 11 who fled after Stephen was killed and preached Jesus to foreign Jews.
- Manaen - who grew up with the same Herod who beheaded John the Baptist and presided over one of the mock trials of Jesus.
- Saul - a Roman citizen who becomes Paul, a former Pharisee, and writes two-thirds of the New Testament.

CHURCH OF ANTIOCH LESSON 3: A church that is outwardly focused.

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." [3] So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:2-3)

Whenever we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, we receive clarity and unity of vision. Here the mission was not to stay and continue to worship, but to go out and spread the news elsewhere. True worship always leads to a sending forth. - Pastor Keith Scarborough

CHURCH OF ANTIOCH LESSON 4: A church that reflects Christ.

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, [26] and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. (Acts 11:25-26)

Although the slang term "Christian" was meant to be a knock on who these believers were, it became an identifier of who they represented. This name holds significant meaning in the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy as well. Check out this verse from 2 Chronicles 7:14.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."



**PLAY LESSON FOUR
VIDEO SEGMENT TWO**