

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 256: THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH**  
**ACTS 11:19-30**

**(IF YOU SERVE THE SNACK WHILE READING THE STORY, GO TO THE  
ACTIVITY PAGE AND DO THE 'ZIP IN THE CUP' ACTIVITY WITH THE  
CHILDREN - OTHERWISE DO THE ACTIVITY WHEN YOU SERVE THEIR  
DRINKS AND SNACKS)**

The disciples were scattered by the persecution that began when Stephen was killed. (After Stephen was stoned there were those who went around to every city looking for believers in Jesus to capture them, put them in jail, and kill them). Some of them went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. They told the Good News in these places, but only to Jews. Some of these believers were men from Cyprus and Cyrene. When these men came to Antioch, they began speaking to people who were not Jews, people called Hellenists. They told them the Good News about the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with these men (which means the Lord was helping these men), and a large number of people believed and decided to follow the Lord. When the church in Jerusalem heard about this, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. When he went to Antioch and saw how God had blessed the believers there, he was very happy. He encouraged them all, saying, "Always be faithful to the Lord. Serve Him with all your heart." Many more people became followers of the Lord. Then Barnabas went to the city of Tarsus to look for Saul. When he found him, he brought him to Antioch. They stayed there a whole year. Every time the church came together, Barnabas and Saul met with them and taught many people. It was in Antioch that the disciples were called "Christian" for the first time. About that same time some prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of the prophets named Agabus stood up and spoke with the help of the Holy Spirit. He said, "A very bad time is coming to the whole earth. There will be a severe famine, (which means there will be no food for people to eat)." (This time of famine happened when Claudius Caesar was emperor.) The disciples decided that they would each send as much as they could to help their brothers and sisters who lived in Judea. They gathered the money and gave it to Barnabas and Saul, who took it to the church elders in Judea.

## THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH (ACTS 11:19-30)



“Then Barnabus left to go to Tarsus, to look for Saul; And when he found him he brought him to Antioch. Then they stayed there a whole year and every time the church met together, Saul and Barnabus met with them and taught them. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

**ACTS 11:25-26**

## 256. THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH

### ACTS 11:19-30

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"The hand of the Lord was with them, and many believed and turned to the Lord."* **ACTS 11:21**

#### **Review Questions**

##### **True or False**

1. The believers were scattered by the persecution that began after Stephen was killed.
2. Some of the believers talked to people who were not Jews, and told them some bad news.
3. Some believers told the Good News about Jesus to people who were not Jews and the hand of the Lord was with them, and many people turned to the Lord.
4. When the church in Jerusalem heard about this, they sent Barnabus to Antioch.
5. When Barnabus came and saw that God had blessed the believers there, he was angry about them teaching the Good News to people who were not Jews.
6. Then Barnabus went to Tarsus to look for Saul.

#### **Questions**

1. Did the first group of disciples who came to Antioch only teach people who were Jews?
2. Was God helping the disciples from Cyprus and Cyrene who were teaching the people who were not Jews (the Hellenists)?
3. What did the church in Jerusalem do when they heard about all the things that were happening in Antioch?
4. When Barnabus got to Antioch, what did he see?
5. After Barnabus saw that God was blessing the disciples there in Antioch, and many people were becoming believers, what did he do?
6. When Barnabus and Saul got to Antioch, how long did they stay there?
7. What were the disciples called in Antioch for the first time?

## Lesson 256 Activities

### Zip in the Cup

Set up a taste testing lab with lots of little paper cups, and Instant Breakfast Drink mix (like Tang) or Kool-Aid (we have plenty in the kitchen!). Make sure to have a pitcher of sugar water ready (put about  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of sugar in about 3" of hot water to melt the sugar, then add cold water to the pitcher – use enough water to mix a whole packet of Kool-Aid) Have children add the drink mix one teaspoon at a time. Pour a tiny (like enough for  $\frac{1}{2}$  a swallow) of the sugar water mix into their cups and let them comment on the taste of their drink. The sugar water by itself does not have a lot of taste.

Have them continue adding mix, stopping occasionally for taste tests. If there is not enough “zip” add more mix. After the drink is finished, serve a whole serving in the little paper cups with their snack.

Explain that just like that drink mix made a difference in the sugar water, Jesus makes a difference in us. The more we allow Jesus to season us, the more “zip” we will have in our world.

### The Colorful Difference – Requires an Iron!

Pass out the “colorful difference” worksheet. Have the children color very heavily on the side of the sheet that has the man holding the Bible. Show an example of how heavily the coloring must be by coloring one of the pages yourself – make sure you make it dark! This will help avoid disappointment when the ironing is done.

When they are finished, fold the sheet in half so the man is facing the world. Lightly iron over the back of the drawing; this will transfer the colors on the sheet with the world. Explain that when we let Jesus make a difference in our lives by giving us special talents to share with others, or He blesses us with money so that we can help others with it, or He gives us joy that we can share with others - these things “Color” our lives! The more we let Him Color us, the more we can share with others! When hard times happen in this world (like in the story a great famine came) – that is like the iron heating us up – when bad things happen in life, it puts us under ‘heat’, just like the iron! But if we have let Jesus make a difference in our lives and give us ‘Color’ – that heat is transferred to the world! We can share the things Jesus has given us with others.

Explain that Jesus changes our lives and, in turn, we change the world around us, just like the man on the coloring sheet made the world a brighter, more colorful place. [In order to make a difference in the world, we need to let Jesus make a difference in us!](#)

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to allow Jesus to change us into His image. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

