

# The Real Deal About Discipleship

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Acts 11:19-30

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## SETTING THE SCENE

- » What do you think it means to be called a “Christian”? What do you think most people (in general) think it means? Before you were a Christian what did you think it meant and how did that change after you accepted Christ and decided to follow Him?
- » Do you think the church needs more programs or fewer? Explain your answer. Why do you think programs in the church get such a bad “wrap”? What’s the difference between a “program” and what the church really should be doing (maybe start you answer by discussing what we should be doing)?

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## THE STUDY

- » What was the key lesson you personally took away from this morning’s message and the passage? What do we need to apply most from the lesson as a church? What questions do you still have about the passage or the sermon?
- » In the sermon Ray gave the following definition of a Christian: “A Christian is one who has placed their life and faith in the living Christ.” Do you agree with this definition? Is there anything you would add? Is there anything in the definition you would take out or replace?
- » Ray then gave the following definition of a Disciple: “A Disciple is one who is a lifelong learner and follower of Christ determining to go where He goes, do what He does, and to say what He says.” Again, do you agree with this definition and what would you add or change?
- » What’s the difference between a “Christian” and a “Disciple” (if anything)? Ray indicated that being a Christian is about your position in Christ and that being a Disciple is about your life for Christ. Agree? Disagree? Explain and discuss.
- » Read **ACTS 11:19-30**. What are the general themes and ideas that Luke is sharing in these verses? Why do you think he includes these stories? What are we as a church supposed to learn from them? What are you (Individually) supposed to learn and apply in your own life?
- » Ray taught this morning that **YOU KNOW YOU’RE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS IF YOU...**
  - 1. LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH** (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

*How did these early Christians respond to being scattered due to persecution? What were they doing?*  
*Who were these scattered Christians first sharing the gospel with? Why do you think those in Antioch started to speak to the Gentiles about Jesus?*  
*Is it easy or hard for you to share your faith with others? Why do you think this is so?*
  - 2. ACT LIKE A DISCIPLE** (John 15:7-9)

*Why do you think the church sent Barnabas to Antioch? What was his role? What did he do when he got there?*  
*How is God’s grace evidenced in your life? Can (and do) others see it and respond to it? Why or why not?*
  - 3. ARE DEDICATED FOR LIFE** (2 Timothy 1:5-7)

*Why do you think Barnabas brought Saul with him to Antioch to teach? How long were they there and what’s significant about that?*  
*What was the long-term benefit of Saul’s ministry in Antioch? Was there a benefit to Barnabas? To the believers in Antioch?*  
*What lessons can we learn and take from this entire story?*
- » What does it mean, practically, for us to be active, dedicated Disciples of Christ each and every day of our lives? Are you living in such a way that you make Jesus proud (and is He proud to call us Christians)? If so, how can you share that with others? If not, how can you improve?

# APPLICATION

- » In what ways are you emulating the life of Christ consistently? Write them down here...
- » In what areas (or in what ways) do you need to improve how you follow and love for Christ? Write those down...
- » Share the answers to the above two questions as a group and identify any common themes or characteristics. How can you help each other and hold each other accountable to becoming more like Christ in your daily lives?
- » Discuss how you feel about openly identifying yourself as a Christian in our culture. Are you ashamed of the “name” that Christians have made for themselves? Does it matter to you what people will think about you (be honest)? As a group, discuss how we as Christ Followers can start to change how the world views us (or is that possible)?
- » Ask God to show you—over the course of the next few days or weeks—where He wants to work on your character. How does He want you to become more like Jesus (we all have room to improve).
- » Share any unanswered questions or comments you have as a result of the group discussion or sermon...

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## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- » Next week we open **ACTS 13:1-43**. In this section we see Paul the missionary sent out on his first missionary journey. Read the passage and pay attention to anything new you read. What are the key lessons in the story? Who are the key characters? Why are they important to the story?
- » Where did Paul & Barnabas travel on their first journey? Why is this important? What did they say to the people (and where did they give the message)? What did Paul say that spoke to you personally?
- » Spend some time reading through this story during the week. As you read it through several times, what patterns start to emerge? What surprises you? What is God trying to teach you through this passage?
- » Write down any questions you have about this passage and be prepared to discuss them next week.

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## CARING COMMUNITY

- » **SHARE** with the group how God has been speaking in your life or challenging you this past week (this may be as a result of the sermon or something in your personal journey). Is there anything from this week's LifeGroup discussion you need to work on?
- » Are there any **NEEDS** you have coming up in your life that the group can help you with (this may include spiritual needs, life needs, pretty much anything...)
- » **PRAY** for one another. Share your requests and praises with one another. Write them down here. If you commit to praying, please be sure you do it...