

IN ANTIOCH THE DISCIPLES WERE FIRST CALLED CHRISTIANS

Acts 11:19–30

Key Verses: 11:25–26

1. Who is mentioned, and where do they go (19a)? Where were Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch? Find out what you can about the city of Antioch. In these places, what do these people do (19b), and why are they speaking only to Jews?
2. In contrast, in Antioch what uniquely happens (20)? Where was Cyrene? Why do you think men from these places initiate speaking to “Hellenists”? What does it mean to “preach the Lord Jesus”? What results (21), and why is this so significant?
3. How does the Jerusalem church respond to this (22)? Why do you think they send Barnabas there? When he arrives, what does he see and urge them to do, and what does this mean (23)? How is he described (24a), and how does God use him?
4. What does Barnabas do next, and why do you think he looks for Saul (25)? Read verse 26. Why do they meet with the church “for a whole year,” and what seems to be their goal in teaching? How would you describe Barnabas’ and Saul’s relationship?
5. What results (26b), and why do you think disciples are given this new name? How can people tell if someone is really a “Christian” (see Luke 9:23; Rom.6:3–8; Phil.2:1–5; 1 Pet.4:16)?
6. What do the believers in Antioch learn, and how do they respond to this news (27–30)? Why is sending relief to fellow Christians an important part of our faith (1 John 3:16–18)? Review how God worked in this new church in Antioch. What lessons can we learn here?