SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 11

To the Gentiles Also

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 11:18

“When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.””

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 11

In Acts 11 good men argued with Peter, listened to what God had done, and ended up praising Him. This week God may want to widen your table, soften a stubborn opinion, and make you the kind of man who sees His grace in others and goes looking for the brother everyone else has forgotten.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Whose Table?

READ · ACTS 11:1–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What exactly did the circumcised believers accuse Peter of doing, and how did Peter begin his answer (11:2–4)?

REFLECT

The complaint was "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them" (11:3). Whose table would you be uneasy sitting at, and what does that unease tell you about your heart?

REFLECT

God told Peter, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy" (11:9). Is there a man — maybe you — whom God has cleansed but you still treat as unclean?

RESPOND — TODAY

Eat a meal or share a cup of coffee this week with someone you would not normally sit with, and listen more than you talk.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 11:18)

DAY 2 OF 5

Don’t Stand in God’s Way

READ · ACTS 11:11–18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List the things God did that Peter reports in order — the men, the Spirit, the angel, the Spirit falling, the word of the Lord (11:11–16).

REFLECT

Peter asked, “who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” (11:17). Where might your opinions, habits or hurt be standing in the way of what God is doing in someone else?

REFLECT

The critics “quieted down and glorified God” (11:18). When was the last time you were wrong about something spiritual and changed your mind — and how did it feel to admit it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God out loud that repentance that leads to life is His gift (11:18), and ask Him to grant it to one man you are praying for by name.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 11:18)

DAY 3 OF 5

Ordinary Men, God's Hand

READ · ACTS 11:19–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who first spoke to the Greeks in Antioch, and what was with them that made the difference (11:20–21)?

REFLECT

The men who preached in Antioch are not even named (11:20). How does it encourage you that God uses ordinary, unknown men to change history?

REFLECT

These believers were scattered by persecution and kept "speaking the word" anyway (11:19). What hard thing that pushed you somewhere new could God use to reach someone there?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one person today, in plain words, one thing the Lord Jesus has done for you (11:20).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 11:18)

DAY 4 OF 5

Be a Barnabas

READ · ACTS 11:22–26

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Barnabas see when he arrived, what did he feel, what did he tell the believers, and whom did he go to find (11:23–25)?

REFLECT

Barnabas "witnessed the grace of God" and "rejoiced" before he did anything else (11:23). When you walk into a group or into a man's life, do you look first for grace or for problems?

REFLECT

Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, a man many were still afraid of (11:25). Who is the brother sitting on the sidelines that you could go and bring back into the work?

RESPOND — TODAY

Call or write one man today and tell him specifically where you see the grace of God in his life, and urge him to keep going with the Lord (11:23).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 11:18)

DAY 5 OF 5

Each According to His Means

READ · ACTS 11:27–30

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Agabus predict, and how did the disciples decide how much each would give (11:28–29)?

REFLECT

The disciples gave "in the proportion that any of the disciples had means" (11:29) — not equal amounts, but everyone gave. What do you have, however small, that could meet a real need this week?

REFLECT

They were "first called Christians in Antioch" (11:26), and the first thing we see them do next is give. What would people need to see in your life for the name Christian to fit you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Decide on one concrete gift — money, food, time or a ride — for someone in need, and deliver it yourself before the week is out.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 11:18)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The Jerusalem believers changed their minds when they heard what God had done (11:18). What makes it hard for men like us to admit we were wrong, and how can our group make that easier?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Barnabas encouraged the new believers to "remain true to the Lord" with "resolute heart" (11:23). What helps you stay true to the Lord when life gets hard, and how can we help each other do it?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

The young church in Antioch sent relief to the older church in Judea (11:29–30). Is there a person or ministry our group could help together, and what would our first step be?

MY PRAYER

Lord, You have granted me repentance that leads to life and given me a seat at Your table, so today I ask You to widen my heart toward…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 11:18

"When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.""