

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro Question:

1. What's one thing God has been showing you this week?

Aim/Prayer: that Village would be united in our mission.

Read: Acts 11

Questions about the passage:

1. What is the issue that is being raised with Peter?
2. What does Gentile salvation suggest about the importance of circumcision and other Old Testament laws? See Acts 15
3. What do you notice about the response to Peter's testimony?
4. What should we make of Agabus' prophecy? Does this still happen today?
5. What does Acts 11:19-30 suggest to us about what it means to be a Christian? Or what it should mean?

Questions for us:

1. Have you ever had a disagreement with other Christians on their behavior? How do we know what is right/wrong? How hard should we pursue unity?
2. How are you going with spreading the word about Jesus? Is there someone in particular you are hoping to bring along to Christmas events?
3. What is biblical stewardship? How are you going with generosity? How do you think about giving in terms of what we should give to?

Pray: through the passage, for each other, for Village Church and for our local community.

Homework: review your giving/budget

Remind: Invite people/buy tickets for Gingerbread events.

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The Book of Acts is all about what happened in the few years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. In his final command, Jesus said to his followers, go and make disciples of all nations. So, that's what they do. But not alone. God's Holy Spirit is with them to grow his Church in number and in maturity.

This week deals with the repercussions of the vision Peter received and the salvation of Cornelius and his household as well as the next step in the gospel going to the Gentiles in Antioch.

Questions about the passage:

- What is the issue that is being raised with Peter?

Previously, to become a member of God's household you needed to be circumcised and follow the law of Moses. Cornelius and his household haven't done this.

- What does Gentile salvation suggest about the importance of circumcision and other Old Testament laws? See Acts 15

The Old Covenant law is now obsolete. It still teaches us about God and his character, purpose and plan. However, you no longer need to practice the law of Moses to be God's people.

- What do you notice about the response to Peter's testimony?

After the believers hear Peter's explanation, they accept and praise God. This points to humble hearts that desire God to be glorified.

- What should we make of Agabus' prophecy? Does this still happen today?

I don't think we should expect moments like this today. God can do it, but he doesn't need to. For the early Church didn't have a culture of giving like we do. Now we know what it looks like to live as a Christian.

- What does Acts 11:19-30 suggest to us about what it means to be a Christian? Or what it should mean?

Being a Christian means sitting under the teachings of faithful men and it means giving generously to the needs of God's people.

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Questions for us:

- *Have you ever had a disagreement with other Christians on their behavior? How do we know what is right/wrong? How hard should we pursue unity?*

God cares deeply about Christians being united in the faith (what we believe). See 1 Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 13:11, John 17:21-23. We should seek to pursue unity with each other in our beliefs and particularly unity with the Apostles teachings.

- *How are you going with spreading the word about Jesus? Is there someone in particular you are hoping to bring along to Christmas events?*

Encourage people to share their stories of who they are praying for/seeking to bring. You could get your group to write down 3 or 5 people each and put them in a hat and be praying for them.

- *What is Biblical stewardship? How are you going with generosity? How do you think about giving in terms of what we should give to?*

Biblical stewardship is seeing that everything you have is given by God for his purposes. We are to wisely use that money for the sake of our living in the world, discipling others and enjoying God's creation. This requires intentional thought and in most cases, budgeting. We can't give to every cause and some causes are more important than others.