

Q: (vv.18-23) A frustrated Herod had the guards killed. But what later happened to Herod? What lessons do we learn about the effects of a proud heart?

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Q: (vv.24-25) in the midst of persecution and threats, the Word of God spreads. How does persecution help spread the gospel and make true followers of Christ?

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Q: Look up resources to learn more about modern day persecution of Christians worldwide. It can seem overwhelming, but commit to pray for them one person, one group, one day at a time. (some suggested ones to start with include: Voice of the Martyrs, [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com); Open Doors, [www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org).)

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*PRAY! Lord help me to be faithful and obey the leading of your Holy Spirit and share your Word with others. Give me boldness to share the gospel when and where you want me to. Help me to know you will prepare hearts ahead of time. Help me to leave the results to you. Whatever the consequences, help us to be faithful servants and witnesses, filled with your Spirit, all for your glory, in Jesus' name, Amen!*

# Harvest Growing Deeper

A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church  
(for personal and/or small group study)

Week of August 9, 2020

Acts 11 & 12

*How might you respond if someone you didn't get along with suddenly comes to Christ? The Jewish Christians had to wrestle with this as a Roman Centurion named Cornelius, and other Gentiles came to saving faith in Christ. Jews were prejudiced against Gentiles. Peter and the eyewitnesses testified that indeed God's offer of grace and forgiveness through Christ now extends to the whole world. Any repentant heart can come to Christ. Chapter 10 also shows how the Holy Spirit prepares hearts to receive Christ. We just need to be faithful and obedient to His leading.*

Q: Who has found faith in Jesus that completely shocked you? Why? What prejudices still lingers in your life that needs to go?

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Q: (11:1-3) What shocked the church in Jerusalem most was not Gentiles coming to faith in Christ, amazing as that would have been. What were they more concerned about (v.3)? In a similar fashion, what issues (or prejudices) today might Christians be more concerned about than others coming to faith in Christ?

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Q: (11:4-18) Peter recaps the vision and the result of the work of the Holy Spirit. What was the main lesson learned?

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Q: (vv.19-26) Antioch was the 3rd largest city in the Roman Empire. The church was multiplying there (average Christians—NOT the apostles, were proclaiming Jesus). The apostles send Barnabas to verify this, to encourage and teach them. Who does Barnabas recruit to help him (v.25)? Who can you recruit to help you minister to others (in and outside the church)?

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\*note in v.26 the disciples 1st become known as “Christians” in Antioch

Q: (vv.27-30) A famine hits Judea and the Antioch Church decides to provide relief, “each according to his ability.” They sent their gift with Barnabas & Saul to the **elders** in the church. This marks a transition in the day to day leadership in the local church there. When you hear of other Christians in need, how quick are you to help “according to your ability” (financial, email, time with them, etc.)?

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Q: (12:1-5) Describe King Herod and his persecution of the church.

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Q: (vv.3-5) King Herod was the grandson of Herod the Great (Mt. 2) and nephew of Herod Agrippa (Lk 23). He acted like a Jewish king and thus was popular among the Jews. So he had the apostle James executed and was planning to execute Peter too. Peter was put into a heavily guarded jail. What was the response of the church? Who is in a difficult situation that we need to be in specific prayer for today?

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Q: (vv.6-11) Describe how God answered the prayers of the church.

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Q: Why might God have allowed James to be killed and Peter to escape? What does this tell us about both the Sovereign work and plans of God, the reality of persecution and the need for His people to pray and trust Him with the outcome?

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Q: (vv.12-19) The mighty Herod and the strict prison security were no match for what God could do (in rescuing Peter). How does this encourage your faith that God is greater than any problem we may face? We can trust in Him, regardless of outcome!

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Q: What “prison” are you facing right now, that seems insurmountable, that you need God to break down those chains? (addictions, bad habit, relationships, job situation, stagnant spiritual life, fears, etc.)

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