

ACTS: Advance “Deep and Wide” (Acts 11)

For the week of March 6, 2016

Testimony

Have a volunteer share their testimony (5-10 minutes) if there is still anyone who has not had the opportunity to share.

Tell the Story

Tell the story of Acts 11. Then read the passage. Discuss any missing details from the telling of the story. Finally, rebuild the story as a group.

Acts 11:1-18

1. Peter receives criticism (vv. 2-3). How was the criticism against Peter helpful to the church? In what ways do you see unity growing within the church in this passage? As a sidebar: How have you seen unity grow here at RiverLakes?
2. When Peter defended his preaching to the Gentiles, why did he say he objected to eating the animals that appeared in the vision (v. 8)? How did the voice answer his objections (v. 9)? Is it difficult to obey the commands in Scripture? Why or why not? What commands in Scripture do you find difficult to obey? Discuss in your group.

3. What convinced the Jerusalem church that God had given the Gentiles the privilege of receiving eternal life (vv. 15-18)? Share in your group evidences of the Holy Spirit's power you have seen in others and in yourself.

Acts 11:19-30

Luke ended his previous section with the words “God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life” (v. 18). It was an epoch-making declaration by the conservative Jewish leaders of the Jerusalem church. The inclusion of the Gentiles is to be Luke's main theme in the rest of Acts.

4. What good resulted from the believers' being scattered by the persecution that was connected with Stephen?

